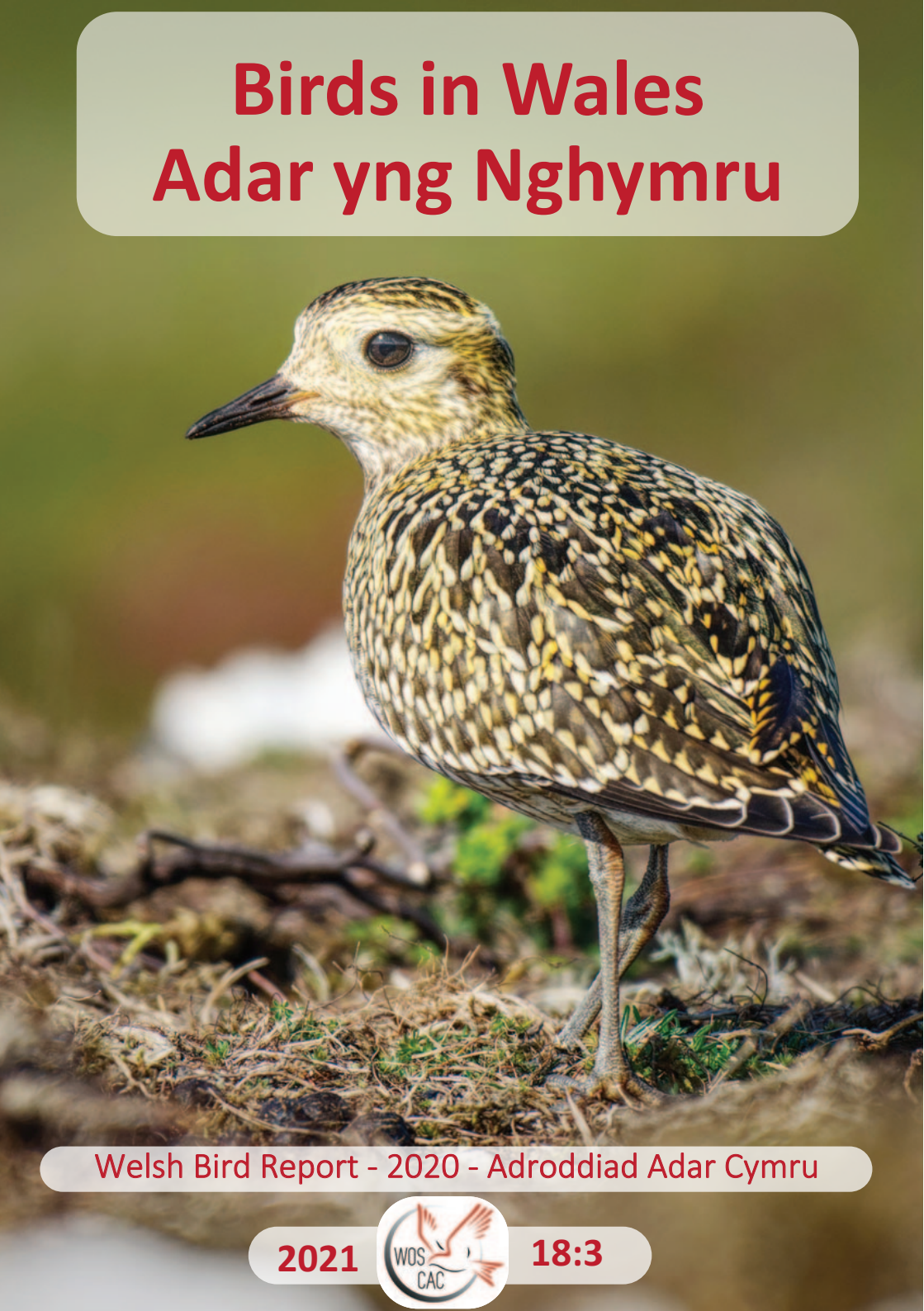
# Birds in Wales
# Adar yng Nghymru



Welsh Bird Report - 2020 - Adroddiad Adar Cymru

2021 WOS CAC 18:3

# Welsh Bird Report No. 34: 2020

**Edited by Julian Hughes**

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Front cover: Golden Plover (Jonathan Bull). Back cover: Kingfishers (Karen Burns)

Published in 2021 by the
Welsh Ornithological Society
Registered as a charity in England and Wales, no. 1037823.
Price - £12

## REVIEW OF THE BIRDING YEAR 2020

Much of 2020 will be remembered for the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the year started with barely anyone knowing the term 'coronavirus', and a fairly typical first winter period for birds. Counts in January were unexceptional, save for at least 500 Bramblings that roosted in Coed y Brenin, Meirionnydd, matching the county record set 45 years previously; 450 Great Crested Grebes in Baglan Bay, Gower, one of the largest counts in Wales but some way short of the Welsh record 536; and 1000 Sanderlings at Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point, Carmarthenshire, only slightly short of the Welsh record 1093 seen here in February 2019.

Up to 30 Velvet Scoters at the west end of Carmarthen Bay on 19-26 January was the highest Welsh count since 30 off the Denbighshire coast in 2010, and also notable were 13 Scaup, 30% of the Welsh total that month, at Ynys Saltings in the Dyfi estuary, Meirionnydd. At least 18 Greenland White-fronted Geese were on Anglesey in January, but it was a notable winter for Bewick's Swan, with not a single record in 2019/20.

The Wetland Bird Surveys showed further declines in many waterbirds and waders: the Pintail index at its lowest since 1983/84, Shelduck since 1984/85, Oystercatcher since 1997/98, and Grey Plover since counts began in the mid-1970s. On the Dyfi estuary, where peak counts of Red-breasted Merganser were upward of 100 birds in the 1980s and '90s, the winter peak was just a dozen. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Purple Sandpiper was less than half that of 2013/14, and that for Jack Snipe has also fallen over the last decade. The Common Gull index was 47% below its 2008/09 peak, but the coast of northeast Wales remains an important staging-point for Scandinavian breeding birds, with counts up to 2800 in February/March.

The Dee estuary remains the fourth most important site in the UK for waterbirds, with a peak of 145,188 birds in 2019/20. Other important Welsh sites include the Severn estuary (64,877 waterbirds), Burry Inlet (18,208) and the Cleddau estuary (21,931). Aggregations were lower at most Welsh sites in 2019/20 than the five-year mean, but especially so on the Burry Inlet, where numbers were less than half the average of the previous four years. The charts used in the *Welsh Bird Report* cover the period to June 2020, and so were relatively unaffected by COVID-19 restrictions, which fell outside the core winter months. Only around 15% of WeBS counts were made at Welsh sites in April and May 2020, but then returned to near-normal from June onwards.

**Change in indices of selected species monitored through WeBS in long- and short-term**

**1994/95 - 2019/20 WeBS changes (44 species)**

**2017/18 - 2018/19 WeBS changes (47 species)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Decline >50% | Increase <25% |
| Decline >25% and <50% | Increase >25% and <50% |
| Decline <25% | Increase >50% |

Social and travel restrictions instituted from 23 March, following the death of 16 people from COVID-19, required people to stay at home, with daily exercise permitted from home once a day until 8 May, and more than once thereafter. Alongside the widespread disruption to normal life, all formal bird monitoring was cancelled and nature reserves were closed, with a notable reduction in records of wetland birds

through spring and summer. The exception was on the islands of Bardsey, Skokholm, Skomer and Ramsey, to which staff were able to travel and self-isolate.

With everyone confined to home during the sunniest spring on record, birdwatchers focused on birds in their gardens. The number of BTO Garden Birdwatch participants doubled and there was an increase in species associated with residential areas, such as Collared Dove and House Sparrow, reported to BirdTrack. A colour-ringed House Sparrow in Bedwas, East Glamorgan, in April set a new British & Irish longevity record, having been ringed in the town almost 12 years and nine months previously, in August 2007. While the Great Orme's Kashmiri goats made world headlines by claiming the streets of Llandudno, several Indian Peafowl that moved into the quiet shopping streets of Bangor, Caernarfonshire, received less media attention.

White Wagtails were among the many wetland and coastal migrants probably under-recorded in spring, passage having started from the early date of 29 February, at Aber Ogwen, Caernarfonshire. Warm weather brought some early summer migrants: Wales' first House Martin of the year (on 8 March) and Redstart (27 March) were both in Flintshire, and the earliest in the county this century by more than a week. A Whinchat nest was already occupied at Maesteg, East Glamorgan, on 29 April, before several counties had recorded their first migrant of the species.

**Redwing (Tony Pope)**

Many rarer migrants on the mainland will have avoided detection, but on the islands, highlights included Wales' fifth Western Subalpine Warbler and 19th Eastern Subalpine Warbler on Skokholm on consecutive days in early May. Bird ringing was restricted to gardens, except at the two island bird observatories: a Willow Warbler ringed on Bardsey in April was found dead in Peebles, in the Scottish Borders, five weeks later. Three Blyth's Reed Warblers in late May/early June were all on islands, part of a Britain-wide influx, and a Shorelark on Bardsey on 30 May was only the second Welsh record in that month.

A flock of 13 Bee-eaters at Mynydd Rhiw, Caernarfonshire, on 9 May, was the largest seen in Wales, breaking a record set in June 1973, and remarkably a couple were ringed in a nearby garden that evening. A late Redwing was at Trecynon, East Glamorgan, on 20 May and perhaps the most unusual rarity record was a Nightingale singing at Cors Dyfi, Montgomeryhire, heard on the live web feed from the Osprey nest on 31 May, and credited to a sharp-eared watcher at her home on the North Wales coast. Surprise sighting of the year was a White-throated Sparrow in a Cwrtnewydd garden, Ceredigion, on 24 June, although it has not been included in the systematic list as it did not appear in the BBRC report for 2020, despite reportedly having been accepted by the British Birds Rarities Committee. From 31 May, the first of 18 Rose-coloured Starlings to occur in Wales this year, the most ever and part of an influx across western Europe.

As well as the suspension of bird monitoring schemes, COVID-19 restrictions resulted in difficulties for several nest protection schemes. Volunteer wardens at the Little Tern colony at Gronant, Flintshire, were unable to operate, but staff from Denbighshire County Council erected protective fencing around the site. Reading of colour-rings at the colony was much reduced and plans had to be abandoned to re-catch birds returning with geolocators that had been attached the previous summer. RSPB Cymru was unable to warden The Skerries, Anglesey, and when staff were able to visit the island, they found that most of the Arctic and Common Terns had deserted, almost certainly as a result of visits by two subadult Peregrines from the mainland that are usually deterred by the presence of wardens at the lighthouse. The importance of secure alternative nest-sites was illustrated by movements to another site on the island where the number of Arctic Tern nests was the highest for many years, and a five-fold increase in their number at Cemlyn during June.

Restrictions were eased from 1 June, permitting vehicle travel up to five miles from home, enabling some volunteers to undertake the second visit for the Breeding Bird Survey. However, only 58 squares were covered, compared to an average of 333 in the previous five years, and the BBS partnership was unable to update trend charts for Wales. On the islands, where monitoring of breeding seabirds was unaffected by mainland travel regulations, counts of Guillemot were up 4%, Razorbill by 8% and Puffin a remarkable 37% on the previous year. Bad weather forced 44 Black Guillemots into Holyhead Harbour on 18 June, the highest ever Welsh count, surpassing 30 off Nefyn in March 1972. Around 10 pairs of Gannet summered on Ynys Badrig, Anglesey, with some nest-building activity, but no breeding. Kittiwake ceased nesting on the Castlemartin peninsula, Pembrokeshire, but those on Ramsey fledged chicks for the first time since 2016. Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the Pembrokeshire islands continued the trend of poor

**Hen Harrier (Andy Davis)**

breeding success, although they had a better year on Bardsey. Black-headed Gulls have ceased to breed regularly in Breconshire, whereas five Mediterranean Gulls nesting in the Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Flintshire, was the most at any Welsh site to date.

Ringed Plovers made breeding attempts at several sites where this does not usually occur, perhaps an effect of fewer human visitors, while Little Ringed Plovers bred successfully at Talybont Reservoir, Brecon, for the first time and Redshank bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve, Gwent. The first confirmed breeding by Red Kite on Anglesey means that Flintshire is now the only county without a breeding record in the modern era. A Hen Harrier satellite-tagged in Snowdonia in 2019 returned to the National Park to breed, having overwintered in northern Spain, to which she then returned in the autumn. The biggest surprise was news of a Corn Bunting nest near Bettisfield, although it's uncertain on which side of the Denbighshire/Shropshire boundary; it was potentially the first Welsh breeding record since 2007. The summer also produced the first confirmed breeding by Long-eared Owl in Carmarthenshire since 1956, and the first breeding ever on Llŷn, Caernarfonshire (although it has bred on Bardsey in the past). Also notable were the first Sedge Warblers to breed on Ramsey for 25 years. Choughs in North and mid-Wales had a second successive year of good fledgling survival, both among the best since 2004, and in Pembrokeshire productivity was just above the 29-year average and the number of young fledged was a new record.

Intriguing sightings included two Black-necked Grebes in breeding plumage at Lisvane Reservoir, East Glamorgan, on 5 June and 3 July (but not on intervening dates) and two Wrynecks around Cwmystwyth, Ceredigion, for three weeks in May/June… There was an increase in the number of Tree Sparrow records, many stemming from increased participation in the BTO Garden Birdwatch: the species was recorded in 3.8% of participating Welsh gardens in June, the highest reporting rate since April 2006. Bird reports confirmed breeding by Tree Sparrows in Breconshire and suggested it in Carmarthenshire and Anglesey. The westward spread of Mandarin Duck was illustrated by the first confirmed breeding records in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire and the inland expansion of Little Egrets continued with the first breeding record in Montgomeryshire.

Records suggest that Hawfinch numbers are increasing in Meirionnydd and may be expanding outside their core area. There were also breeding season records of Hawfinch in Gower, Ceredigion and Caernarfonshire. Although there was little monitoring of breeding birds away from the islands, the BirdTrack reporting rate for Swallow has declined by 32% since 2013 and there were just three records of Kestrel in Carmarthenshire during the breeding season. A juvenile Indian Peafowl was at Talyllyn Reservoir, Breconshire, in August, the first confirmed breeding in Wales since 2007. Ring-necked Parakeets, removed from the Welsh List in 2019, were in Blackwood Park, Gwent, throughout the year, numbers increasing from two to six from August to December, but breeding was not confirmed.

The limits on travel were removed from 6 July, and many staffed nature reserves reopened, although it was impossible for mixed groups to visit the islands, and some remained closed to visitors for the rest of the year. The suspension of school visits to most nature reserves, since March, was extended to spring 2021 at most sites. The number of Little Tern nests was the lowest for some years, a combination of limited wardening and loss of nests to high tides in early June, although some birds relaid at nearby RSPB Point of Ayr reserve, where 21 pairs nested. Colour-ringed Little Tern yellow ZBA returned to Gronant for the 27th year, setting a new longevity record for the species in Europe (and quite possibly the world). Another Little Tern at Gronant had been colour-ringed on migration in Portugal in September 2018 and a Kittiwake colour-ringed as a chick in an island in western Sweden in 2005 was resighted at Rhos Point, Caernarfonshire, in August.

A Roseate Tern paired with a Common Tern on Anglesey, fledging one hybrid young, and the number of Roseates seen on post-breeding passage in Carmarthenshire and Caernarfonshire was far higher than usual. At least 1000 Mediterranean Gulls along the Ceredigion coast in August was a new Welsh record,

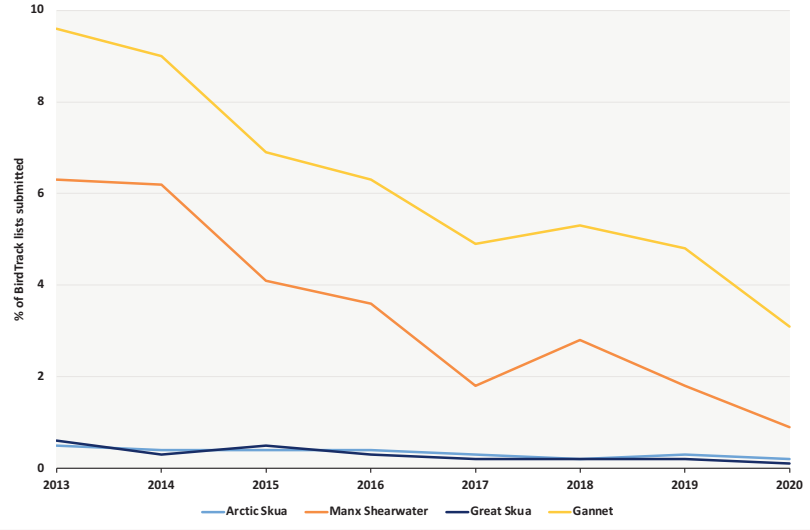
**Manx Shearwater (Ken Barnett)**

with three-figure counts at sites in Gower, Carmarthenshire, Caernarfonshire and Anglesey during the summer, and off Skokholm in November. The number of passage Arctic Terns off Bardsey in late August was also exceptional, with a Welsh record day count of 1298 there on the 26th.

Otherwise, autumn seabird passage was unexceptional, with the second lowest count ever of Pomarine Skuas and few Sooty Shearwaters past Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire. Numbers of Balearic Shearwaters around Wales were less than one-third of the 10-year average, although 18 off Bardsey on 22 September was notable for the island. No Little Auks were seen (the last Welsh record of a bird alive was in November 2018) but 15 Long-tailed Skuas past Strumble Head on 26 August was only three fewer than the site record day-count of 18 in September 1991. There were large post-breeding movements of Kittiwakes, including 15,000 off Strumble Head on 26 August and 6000 fed off Ynyslas, Ceredigion, on 15 September. The BirdTrack reporting rate for regular passage migrants, such as Manx Shearwater, Great Skua and Arctic Skua has, however, fallen in recent years (see chart on p.7).

With most nature reserves open in August and September, birders enjoyed some autumn passage. There was a minimum 132 Curlew Sandpipers, above the 30-year average, but it was a relatively poor year for Little Stints. Notable were 30 Ruff at RSPB Cors Ddyga, Anglesey, on 17 September and 35 Spotted Redshanks at Connah's Quay nature reserve, Flintshire, the highest count there since September 1992. There were some late-departing Pied Flycatchers in September, the latest this century in Meirionnydd by 11 days, in Breconshire by 15 days and in Montgomeryshire by 17 days.

A post-breeding flock of Choughs near Aberdaron, Caernarfonshire, developed during the summer to a record Welsh count of 91-92 birds in mid-September. A count of 153 Barnacle Geese in September was the highest ever on the Teifi estuary, Pembrokeshire/Ceredigion, suggesting a productive breeding season on Cardigan Island, to which no visits were possible in summer. The ninth Welsh record of Taiga Bean Goose was at RSPB Cors Ddyga in September, and the 13th record of Tundra Bean Goose was on the Gwent Levels from November.




**BirdTrack reporting rates for Autumn seabirds**

A Welsh record 75 Grey Wagtails were at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 4 September and several other large counts were made there later in the month. There were noteworthy movements of Coal Tits on the Great Orme, Caernarfonshire, in September and Lavernock Point, East Glamorgan, in October. Visible migration of Siskins was evident along the South Wales coast in mid-September, and of Chaffinch and Goldfinch (including a Welsh record count of 3200 Goldfinch) in mid-October and early November. There were small movements of Hawfinch in mid-October in Gower, Ceredigion and Caernarfonshire, including one among Redwings that might perhaps point to a Norwegian origin. There were Great Spotted Woodpecker records on Bardsey on most days in October, including an island record eight on 17th.

A count of 10,000 Pink-footed Geese from Connah's Quay NR on 9 October was a Welsh record, as were flocks of 10 Cattle Egrets in East Glamorgan, Flintshire and Pembrokeshire during the year and 12 Great White Egrets at Staffal Haegr, Gower, on 4 October and those seen in Flintshire contributed to a roost of up to 32 Great White Egrets at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Wirral.

Community transmission rates of COVID-19 increased dramatically in some parts of South Wales during September, leading to a series of county lockdowns from 22nd and a 17-day 'firebreak' across the whole country from 23 October. Travel from outside Wales was banned, and residents were again required to stay at home, with most nature reserves closing. Wales' second Eastern Yellow Wagtail was on Bardsey on 3-6 October, seventh Dusky Warbler at Wylfa, Anglesey, on 25 October and fourth Upland Sandpiper on Skokholm on 31 October. An escapee making its first appearance in this report was a Red-billed Leiothrix in Brecon in October/November, an east Asian species that is now well-established as a breeding bird in several Western European countries.

Travel was permitted within Wales from 9 November to 28 December, but limited daylight curtailed birdwatching for many. There were high counts of Woodpigeon across southeast Wales in the first week of November, the largest being 45,000 over Leckwith, East Glamorgan, on 6th, and flocks were seen over a larger front than usual, including in Carmarthenshire, the Dyfi estuary and at Bangor. There were also several large counts of Fieldfare, the highest being 2000 at Gwernymynydd, Flintshire.

A Welsh record 216 Mandarin Ducks were in the Elan Valley, Radnorshire, on 8 November and Wales' third King Eider was off the Pembrokeshire coast in November/December. A Sand Martin at Cemlyn, Anglesey, on 11 November was the latest ever Welsh record, except for one in Gwent in December 2005, and a Redstart at Mynydd y Glog, East Glamorgan, on 19 November matches the latest in Wales this century. Late scarce migrants included a Turtle Dove at Comins Coch, Ceredigion, on 22 November and Hoopoe at Portskewett, Gwent, on 7-10 December. The last Welsh Swallow of the year was in Gower on 13 December, the latest ever in the recording area.

Roosts of over 300,000 Starlings were highlights on Anglesey, at Parys Mountain in late October and RSPB Cors Ddyga in early December. With schools and universities switching to online learning from 14th, many staffed nature reserves closed before Christmas and remained shut until mid-March 2021. The new restrictions meant that bird monitoring was suspended once again, primarily affecting the Wetland Bird Survey. Several Caspian Gulls in South Wales during early winter brought the total for the year to six, making it the best year yet for records, but with no Waxwings, it is possible that 2020/21 will be the first blank winter in Wales for some years.

A colour-ringed Curlew, hand-raised at a zoo in Germany, in 2012 was seen at Cemlyn, Anglesey, on 8 December, the first sighting since its release. Another Curlew, colour-ringed near Usk lighthouse, Gwent, in December 2015 and seen here in successive winters to 2019, has been at a breeding site in the far east of Poland for the third successive spring. Following the breeding Corn Bunting record in the summer, it was encouraging to record up to 19 in Bettisfield in December.

The year was one of considerable uncertainty at one of Wales' premier wildlife sites, Kenfig NNR, as Bridgend County Borough Council's lease of the reserve ended at the end of December 2019. Owners Kenfig Corporation Trust had failed to secure a long-term management arrangement with a conservation organisation before the end of the lease, and so assumed responsibility for management itself from the start of 2020. A public petition to the Senedd called on Welsh Government to compulsorily purchase the site, and although no agreement had been reached with Natural Resources Wales by the year-end, the KCT announced its intention to appoint a warden in 2021.

The effect of COVID-19 restrictions on birdwatching is evident in records submitted to BirdTrack. The number of records in Wales was 8% lower than in 2019 and, although the number of lists submitted was down 10%, it was nonetheless the second highest total ever. Many of the seasonal spikes in species records from the spring lockdown were far less evident by the year-end, although the number of records of springtime 'destination species' such as Osprey and Black Grouse was noticeably down. Reporting rates

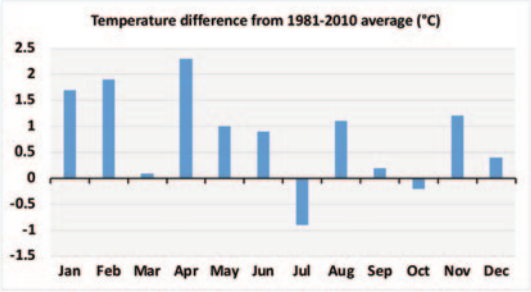
**Records and complete lists submitted to BirdTrack by recording area.**

| | Records | 2020 vs 2019 | | Lists | 2020 vs 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gwent | 42673 | 0% | | 1908 | 0% |
| East Glamorgan | **94104** | **17%** | | **4741** | **17%** |
| Gower | **32209** | **32%** | | **1953** | **21%** |
| Carmarthenshire | **26962** | **37%** | | **1541** | **36%** |
| Pembrokeshire | 40723 | -20% | | 1932 | -20% |
| Ceredigion | 16042 | -22% | | 566 | -26% |
| Breconshire | 6281 | -36% | | 347 | -43% |
| Radnorshire | 1843 | -47% | | 72 | -54% |
| Montgomeryshire | 7300 | -10% | | 278 | -23% |
| Meirionnydd | 7423 | -50% | | 249 | -65% |
| Caernarfonshire | 39850 | -38% | | 1683 | -31% |
| Anglesey | 28091 | -50% | | 1107 | -53% |
| Denbighshire | 42446 | -18% | | 1788 | -22% |
| Flintshire | **65776** | **9%** | | 2118 | 0% |

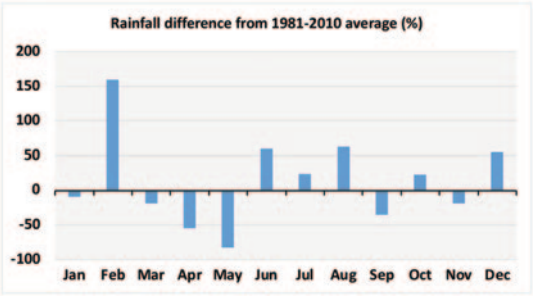
of coastal and wetland species, such as seabirds, waterfowl and waders, were lower than usual, as were upland breeding species such as Wheatear and Meadow Pipit. Geographically, the drop in the number of records was greatest in North and Mid Wales, whereas counties with a high density of recorders — East Glamorgan, Gower and Carmarthenshire (shown in green in the table), all increased by more than 15%.

## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR WALES IN 2020

This summary is based on the Met. Office monthly summaries for Wales at **metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/summaries/index** and, for river flows, the National Hydrological Monitoring Programme at **nrfa.ceh.ac.uk/monthly-hydrological-summary-uk**. Where comparisons are made to an average, these refer to the period 1981-2010.




2020 was the third warmest year on record in the UK, the sixth wettest and the eighth sunniest, so is remarkable for being ranked in the top ten for all three variables. Only 2006 and 2014 were warmer, and in Wales, 10 months were warmer than average, five by more than 1°C. Three named storms contributed to the wettest February in Wales since records began in 1862, bringing severe flooding in both North and South Wales. The first lockdown coincided with an extended period of dry and clear weather, making it the sunniest spring on record by a wide margin. However, as COVID-19 travel restrictions eased, the summer turned wet, and unsettled conditions also dominated the late autumn and early winter. The wide variation in rainfall resulted in significant changes in river flows during the year.




**January** was mild and unsettled with westerly and southwesterly winds, gusting to 79mph at Capel Curig, Caernarfonshire, and Mumbles, Gower, on 13/14th, resulting in fallen trees and local flooding, especially in the South Wales valleys. Rainfall on 11th produced 62.4mm at Capel Curig. High pressure dominated during the third week, with overnight frosts. The temperature at St Harmon, Radnorshire, fell to -6.3°C early on the 19th. There was further cold weather in the last few days of the month, with light snow on high ground. The mean temperature was 1.7°C above average, rainfall was 91% of average and sunshine was 93% of average.

**February** was exceptionally wet and frequently windy, with Storm Ciara on 9th (with a gust of 93mph at Aberdaron, Caernarfonshire) and Storm Dennis on 15th bringing widespread flooding to many areas. It was also very wet on 28th as Storm Jorge moved in from the south. In the wettest February since records began in 1862 (and the fifth wettest month in 158 years), some places received more than three times the normal rainfall. Maerdy, East Glamorgan, for example was hit by 124.8mm on 15th. Welsh rivers ran at least double their usual February flow, with the Tawe, Dee and Conwy breaking records, the last of these at 329% of its usual February level. Like the rest of the winter, there was little snow, although it was

8cm deep at Lake Vyrnwy, Montgomeryshire, on 26th, and there were few nights of frost. The mean temperature for the month was 1.9°C above the long-term average.

The effects of flooding continued into early **March**, especially when combined with a tidal surge in the southwest. It was windy on the 11th, with a gust of 78mph at Aberdaron, but conditions settled down from mid-month, at the start of the sunniest spring on record. It was the ninth sunniest March in Wales since records began in 1929, with 140% of average hours. Rainfall was 81% of average and the mean temperature was 0.1°C above average. Rhyl, Flintshire, was the warmest place in the UK in March, at 19.4°C on the 24th. Few places experienced frost, although the extended high pressure resulted in an overnight low of -6.4°C at St Harmon on the 27th.

Aside from a few days of unsettled conditions at the start and end of the month, the fine weather continued through **April,** with the mean temperature 2.3°C above the long-term average. It was the equal third warmest April (alongside 1893) since records began in 1884, with the thermometer hitting 25°C at Cardiff's Bute Park, East Glamorgan, on the 11th. The high pressure resulted in some frosty nights inland, as low as -5.3°C at St Harmon on 13th. Rainfall was 46% of average, most coming in the last few days. This led to low river flows, with most running at half to one-third of usual levels, but the Dee was at just 16% of its usual April level, a record low. It was the third sunniest April in a series from 1929, 40% above the long-term average.

Fine weather continued through much of **May**, although cold northerly winds from 10-15th restricted daytime temperatures to only 8.2°C at Lake Vyrnwy and Capel Curig on the 11th and to -6.2°C at St Harmon overnight on 13th. There was also windy, unsettled weather on 21st to 23rd, which included a gust of 73mph at Capel Curig on the 22nd, the strongest in the UK all month. Nonetheless, the mean temperature was 1.0°C above the long-term average, with a high of 28°C at Porthmadog, Caernarfonshire, on the 31st. It was the sunniest May since records began in 1929 (150% of the long-term average) and the second driest since 1862, with just 17% of average rainfall. This put further pressure on river flows, with many exceptionally low: the Dee was just 13% of the May average and the Tywi was 17%.

The warm and sunny weather, which had been sustained pretty much throughout the first lockdown, ended a few days into **June**, and much of the month was unsettled, with torrential thunderstorms mid-month causing flooding, including to properties in the Rhondda Valley, East Glamorgan. There was 68.2mm of rain at Mumbles, Gower, on the 10th. Most rivers returned to normal flow levels, except those with small catchments such as the Erch, Caernarfonshire, which was just one-third of its typical June flow. The second half of the month was warmer and humid, with a maximum of 31.3°C at Bute Park, Cardiff, on the 25th. The mean temperature for the month was 0.9°C above the long-term average, but the periods of heavy rain resulted in precipitation being 160% of average.

**July** was also unsettled, especially at the start of the month: 101.8mm of rain fell at Aberllefenni, Meirionnydd, on the 4th, and there was a gust of 67mph at Capel Curig on the 5th. The middle of the month was dull and drizzly, except for brief ridges of high pressure that resulted in a minimum overnight temperature of -0.1°C at St Harmon on 19th and a hot sunny day on the 31st, with a high of 31.1°C at Colwyn Bay, Denbighshire. The mean temperature was 0.9°C below the long-term average and rainfall was 124% of average, although close to normal in the east. River flows were above the seasonal norm across most of Wales, and especially high in the north.

**August** continued the wet, windy and unsettled theme, but it was warmer than average, by 1.1°C, and the mean minimum temperature was the second highest for August in a series from 1884. The 12th was hot in places, with a high of 33.5°C at Usk, Gwent, and an overnight low of 20.0°C at Porthmadog, but the heat triggered powerful thunderstorms that brought surface flooding and landslips. Further floods and power cuts came in the wake of Storm Ellen on 19th-21st (which included a record - for August - gust of

79mph at Capel Curig) and Storm Francis on the 25th, which produced 94.2 mm of rain at Capel Curig. Rainfall for the month was 163% of average, so river flows remained high, 200-300% of the August average.

Windy and unsettled weather continued into **September**, but high pressure from 12th-22nd brought warm conditions, up to 27.5°C at Gogerddan, Ceredigion, and Bute Park, Cardiff. The last week felt more autumnal, with a minimum of -2.2°C at St Harmon and a daytime maximum of just 9.7°C at Lake Vyrnwy on the 26th. The mean temperature was 0.2°C above the long-term average, and it was dry (65% of average rainfall) and sunny (120% of average hours).

Storm Alex felled trees and brought flooding to northwest Wales on 3-4 **October,** with further flooding in mid-Wales on the 7-8th and again during Storm Aiden on the 29th. In between, it was cloudy and windy, especially in the last 10 days, making it the third dullest October in a series from 1919. Rainfall was 23% above average, increasing river flows to 175% of normal levels in North Wales, and around 140% in the south. The mean temperature for the month was 0.2°C below the 1981-2010 average.

**November** started where Storm Aiden had left off, with flooding and fallen trees across North Wales on the 1st, 94mm of rain at Capel Curig but a high of 18.4°C made Hawarden, Flintshire, the warmest place in the UK all month. Southerly winds ensured mild temperatures for much of the month, not dropping below 12.6°C at Prestatyn, Flintshire, overnight on the 18th. The mean temperature was 1.2°C above average and rainfall was 19% below average. It turned colder and more settled in the final week, with a daytime maximum of only 1.4°C at Llysdinam, Breconshire, on the 26th.

The first and last weeks of **December** were cold and unsettled, with some snow on high ground, especially during the last week, but the middle fortnight was mild, wet and windy. Rain contributed to flooding across the southwest on the 13th and river flows 60-80% above average in South Wales. The mercury climbed to 14.9°C at Prestatyn on the 18th, making it the warmest place in the UK that month. Storm Bella on the 26th brought heavy rain and strong winds from the north, with a gust of 83mph at Aberdaron, after which it turned cooler. Lake Vyrnwy recorded 9cm of lying snow on the 28th and temperatures at St Harmon dipped to -7.5°C overnight into the 31st and rose to only 0.6°C at Libanus, Breconshire, the following day. The mean temperature for the month was 0.4°C above average, but it was a wet month, with 155% of average rainfall.

## BIRD RECORDING IN WALES

The vast majority of records used to compile the *Welsh Bird Report*, and the data presented from national recording schemes, are collected by enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers. We sometimes lament our lack of knowledge about birds in Wales, but it is far more complete thanks to this army of unpaid expertise than it would otherwise be. The backbone of this huge collation of records is the bird clubs and the network of county bird recorders that they support. A list of bird reports appears on page 220.

The Welsh Ornithological Society uses the Watsonian vice-county system (hereafter referred to as counties for simplicity) as the basis of bird recording in Wales, illustrated on the map on p.12 (see the Ray Society, publication no. 146). This system largely matches the pre-1974 political administrative counties, but there are small differences shown on the map.

**Counties in Wales used for bird-recording. Note the zones that differ from the 'old' counties: in (a) records are maintained by Denbighshire (VC50), although it is administratively in Powys; those from (b) and (c), while historically in Breconshire, are maintained by recorders in East Glamorgan and Gwent respectively; area (d), while historically in Gwent, is part of the East Glamorgan recording area and follows the modern boundary of the Cardiff and Newport unitary authorities.**

**UK survey data collected in Wales**

This Report uses statistics collected by two UK- and one Britain-wide monitoring schemes, and one that collects birdwatchers' records from across the World.

Indices of waterbirds in Wales are presented using data collected from the Wetland Bird Survey, the current incarnation of surveys to monitor ducks, geese, swans and waders since the 1960s, and which now extends to divers, grebes, cormorants, crakes/rails, gulls, terns and Kingfisher. Volunteers count all waterbirds present on estuaries, inland waterbodies and some stretches of open coast at high tide each month. WeBS is a partnership between the British Trust for Ornithology, the RSPB and the JNCC*, in association with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. The blue dots show the annual index and the red line shows the smoothed trend.

Headline figures for Wales from BirdTrack show the numbers of records received in Wales and, importantly, the proportion of 'complete lists' on which the species occurred during the year. BirdTrack lists convert unstructured sightings into data that can be analysed, as well as providing a platform for birdwatchers to maintain their records and submit them automatically to local bird recorders. BirdTrack is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology for the BTO, RSPB, BirdWatch Ireland, Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society.

Since it was not possible to update Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) trends owing to COVID-19 restrictions on fieldwork in 2020, readers are referred to the 2019 *Welsh Bird Report* for the latest indices. However, for selected species, the reporting rates for BirdTrack are shown for interest. These are neither as robust nor as representative as the BBS trends, not least because of a strong geographic bias towards sites that appeal to birdwatchers and, in 2020, to gardens and urban areas, but are provided for additional interest.

We encourage WOS members and *Welsh Bird Report* readers to register on **BirdTrack.net** and use it whenever you're birding, and for those who are able to commit to regular surveys, to contact their **BTO.org** regional representative.

Finally, the Welsh Ornithological Society and all the county recorders in Wales support the work of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. Welsh data contributes to the UK RBBP annual report published in *British Birds*. To encourage greater coverage of the rare and scarce breeding species, their current Welsh status is shown in the relevant species headers here. All breeding evidence, including the presence of birds in suitable breeding habitat at the right time of year - including non-native species - is important to the assessment of the county, Welsh and UK populations of these rarer species. A list of the RBBP species that occur in Wales is on the WOS website: **https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/recording-rare-birds/**.

* JNCC involvement in the partnerships listed is on behalf of the statutory nature conservation bodies: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage.

**Rare and scarce birds in Wales**

The Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC, formerly the Welsh Records Panel) is part of the Welsh Ornithological Society and considers records of all scarce species in Wales, defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year in Wales on average, but which are not on the list of species considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

Descriptions can be submitted via county recorders or direct to the WBRC Secretary. Forms are available

from county recorders or the Secretary. Any observer submitting a description to the WBRC can see its deliberations on the record on request. The Committee has five voting members and a non-voting Secretary. Membership in 2020 comprised: Steve Stansfield - Bardsey (Chair), Richard Brown – Skokholm and Pembrokeshire, Chris Jones – Denbighshire, Simon Murray – East Glamorgan and Gower, Paul Roberts – East Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Caernarfonshire, and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green – Ceredigion.

The full list of Category A species which the Panel considered is as follows. In addition, WBRC assesses descriptions of Category B species that are not considered by the BBRC, and scarce subspecies (see below):

Taiga Bean Goose
Tundra Bean Goose
American Wigeon
Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck
Surf Scoter
Smew
Alpine Swift
Corncrake
Spotted Crake
Crane
Red-necked Grebe
Stone-curlew
American Golden Plover
Temminck's Stint
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Lesser Yellowlegs
Ring-billed Gull
Caspian Gull
White-winged Black Tern
White-billed Diver
Wilson's Petrel
Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater
White Stork
Glossy Ibis
Night-heron
Purple Heron
Golden Eagle
Montagu's Harrier
Black Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Rough-legged Buzzard
Bee-eater
Red-footed Falcon
Red-backed Shrike
Woodchat Shrike
Golden Oriole
Penduline Tit
Shore Lark
Short-toed Lark
Red-rumped Swallow
Pallas's Warbler
Radde's Warbler
Dusky Warbler
Greenish Warbler
Arctic Warbler
Blyth's Reed Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Barred Warbler
Rose-coloured Starling
Bluethroat
Nightingale
Red-flanked Bluetail
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Citrine Wagtail
Olive-backed Pipit
Common Rosefinch
Common Redpoll
Arctic Redpoll
Serin
Corn Bunting
Ortolan Bunting
Cirl Bunting
Little Bunting
Rustic Bunting

Scarce subspecies are considered on the same basis, i.e. all those occurring on average five times or fewer annually. Examples considered by the WBRC are:

Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*
Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*
Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*
Razorbill – torda
Little Auk – *polaris*
Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*
Grey-headed Wagtail – *thunbergi*
Treecreeper – *familaris*
Coal Tit – *ater*
Jay – *glandarius*
Jackdaw – *monedula*
Bullfinch – *pyrrhula*

Not all records of species on these lists reach the relevant committee. Records not published here may never have been submitted or still be under consideration. It is helpful if descriptions of BBRC and WBRC species are submitted as soon as possible after the sighting. Records should be submitted to BBRC through county recorders or in an electronic form to **secretary@bbrc.org.uk**. If it is a written or typed description. please send it to the WBRC Secretary who will scan and send it on to the BBRC.

Jon Green, Crud-yr-Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan SA43 2AR, email:
**welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk**.

**Treatment of records in the *Welsh Bird Report***

The Systematic List covers the calendar year 2020 unless otherwise indicated. Bird reports were available for all recording areas except Gwent and Radnorshire, although records submitted to BirdTrack and eBird were available for both counties and have been used within the species accounts. Any errors or omissions will be corrected in the 2021 report.

Species names and order follow the International Ornithological Congress taxonomy, but vernacular names in English and Welsh are those that are widely used by birders. The species included in the main list are those placed by WOS in Category A (recorded in an apparently natural state in Wales at least once since 1 January 1950) or Category C (introduced species that have a self-sustaining population). A list of birds, to subspecies level, that have been recorded in Wales is available at **https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee**.

The status summaries (in italics below each species name) are based on assessments published in ***The Birds of Wales*** (Pritchard *et al*. 2021), using population estimates in Hughes *et al*. (2020) and Eaton *et al*. (2021). The definitions used, based on records during 1990-2019, are: Abundant, Fairly Common, Uncommon/Localised, Scarce (more than 35 records in total but <5 records per year), Rare (10-35 birds), Very rare (3-9 birds) and Extremely rare (1-2 birds). Waterbird alerts for Wales are from Woodward *et al*. (2019) and trends in non-estuarine waders are from Humphreys *et al*. (2021).

For some species, monthly maximum counts for the main sites are tabulated as available. These figures are the peak counts recorded at each site in that month and do not represent coordinated counts on a single day. Some overlap may therefore occur, as birds move between sites. For some wildfowl, the numbers of breeding pairs are assessed by the number of males present during the breeding season.

WOS and county bird recorders have formally agreed the adoption of county names in both Welsh and English languages, which are shown on the website **birdsin.wales**. These reflect local usage, even though they vary in their use of the '-shire' suffix. These names are shown on the map on page 12, but for conciseness, the systematic list uses shortened forms (e.g. Brecon, not Breconshire).

Records from GLAMORGAN are split into E.GLAMORGAN and GOWER. Where sites border two vice-counties (mostly estuaries), records are shown based on the county from which they were seen, unless they were reported from both, for example on the well-watched Teifi estuary where birds are frequently reported from both Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion, so records are shown as PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION. In these instances, the maximum number/date range is reported, even if the exact dates and numbers differ slightly from each side.

Most of RSPB Conwy nature reserve is in DENBIGH, but a very small part of the reserve lies in CAERNARFON. Much of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands nature reserve is in Wirral, but this report includes records where birds were known to be in FLINT.

The records for some species are summarised to show the total recorded in each month for each county. Where a bird stays into two or more months it is recorded for each month. In tables of early and late migrants, the most extreme date in Wales is shown in bold type. Where comparable counts are shown for breeding seabirds, those that are lower in the current year are shaded grey.

The conservation status of each species in Wales is noted as Red, Amber or Green species of conservation concern in Wales, based on Johnstone and Bladwell (2016).

It is the policy of the Society NOT TO PUBLISH in this Report any records of species on the list of the British

Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) or of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee unless that record has been considered and accepted by the BBRC or WBRC. Where a species is on one of these lists, this is noted in the comment on status. All records have been accepted by the relevant body unless specifically stated otherwise.

Abbreviations used in the report:

| | |
|---|---|
| AOL | Adults on Land |
| AON | Apparently Occupied Nests |
| AOS | Apparently Occupied Sites |
| asl | above sea level |
| CP | Country Park |
| est. | estuary |
| GC | Golf course |
| GP | Gravel Pit |
| LNR | Local Nature Reserve |
| NR | Nature Reserve |
| NNR | National Nature Reserve (designated) |
| P. | Species present (in tables) |
| R. | River |
| Res. | Reservoir |
| RG | Ringing Group |
| WP | Water Park |
| WTW | Water Treatment Works |

Birds are aged according to their calendar year, as transcribed in the table below.

| Welsh Bird Report description | Non-calendar description |
|---|---|
| Juvenile | Used only in relation to birds at nest/colony |
| 1CY | Juvenile, first-winter (to 31 Dec.) |
| 2CY | 1st-winter (from 1 Jan.), 1st-summer, 2nd-winter (to 31 Dec.) |
| 3CY | 2nd-winter (from 1 Jan.), 2nd-summer, 3rd-winter (to 31 Dec.) |

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks to every birdwatcher who submitted a record during 2020. This report would be nothing without you. And an even bigger thank you to the county recorders and bird report editors who compile their local reports, shared their drafts and answered my queries so promptly.

Sections of this report were compiled by Julian Hughes (geese to grebes), Rhion Pritchard (waders), Bob Haycock (seabirds), Jon Green (Glossy Ibis to falcons), Keith Noble (shrikes to Long-tailed Tit), Dr Stephanie Tyler MBE (warblers to Dipper) and Dr Richard Facey amd Julian Hughes (sparrows to New World warblers). Extra information was supplied by Adrienne Stratford (Cross and Stratford Welsh Chough Project) and the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme.

Thanks also to Lee Barber (British Trust for Ornithology) for compiling the Ringing Report; to Reg Thorpe and Adrienne Stratford for updating the Welsh List on behalf of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee; and to the photographers, who are credited in the captions. Special thanks to Ian Spence for producing the maps using DMAP by Dr A.J. Morton, and for undertaking the design of the Report once again. Thanks to the secretariats of BirdTrack, the Wetland Bird Survey and the Seabirds Monitoring Programme for providing the data used in the report.

**Julian Hughes**, Editor.

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

**BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla* GWYDD DDU

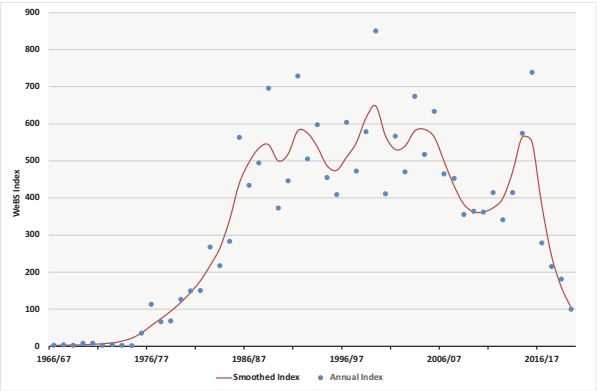
*Regular wintering populations are found in the Burry Inlet and around the Menai Strait. Elsewhere, small numbers are recorded in winter and on passage. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 423 | 402 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 2% |

***B.b. bernicla* (Dark-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Foldywyll)**

*Amber WeBS alert: -36% long-term, greater than in England as a result of the main Welsh population, on the Burry Inlet, declining since the start of the 21st century.*

**Wetland Bird Survey: Dark-bellied Brent Goose in Wales 1966/67-2019/20.**




The speed of the decline in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales is shocking, down 82% in just four years, to its lowest level since 1978/79. The greatest declines have been in Carmarthen Bay and the Burry Inlet, while the smaller populations in North Wales have changed little. Flocks in Britain in 2020/21 comprised 9.1% 1CY/2CY, lower than the ten-year mean (10.2%).

Monthly max. at the main sites.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 450 | 349 | 196 | | | 1 | 364 | 201 | 207 |
| Salthouse Pt/Crofty | 250 | 260 | 280 | 2 | | | 6 | 29 | 265 |
| Weobley | 83 | | 138 | | | | 172 | 43 | 214 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 150 | 226 | 4 | | | | | 64 | 6 |
| Pwll | 16 | 200 | 211 | 1 | | | 127 | 150 | 36 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 3 | 2 | 50 | | | 1 | 3 | 30 | c.10 |

Other large counts: GOWER: 102 at Penclacwydd in March; 422 in the Burry Inlet on 2 March (196 at Whiteford/Landimore, 138 at Wernffrwd, 88 at Salthouse Pt) and 561 here on 24 Dec. (207 at Whiteford/Landimore and 254 at Salthouse Pt); CARMARTHEN: 38 at Ginst Pt on 12 Sept.; 50 at Gwendraeth est. in Nov.; FLINT: 102 at Bagillt on 27 Dec.

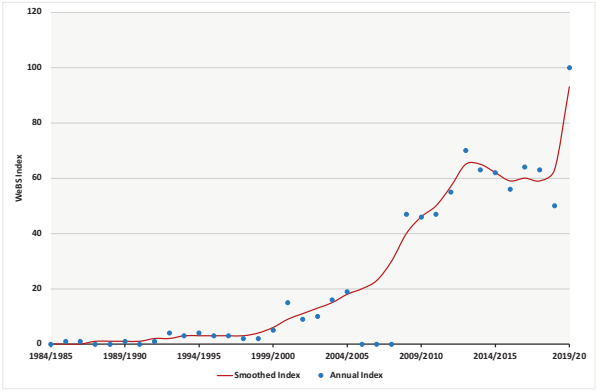
Unseasonal: one with an injured wing in the Burry Inlet, GOWER, remained throughout the summer.

***B.b. hrota* (Pale-bellied Brent Goose / Gŵydd Ddu Canada)**

After the previous winter's fall to the lowest point in a decade, the Wetland Bird Survey index reached a record high, with the five-year average counts at most sites in northwest Wales and the Dee estuary also achieving new peaks, as well as the far smaller population on the Severn estuary. The count of 717 at Traeth Melynog, Anglesey, on 18 Oct. was a site record.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose (Steve Rosser)

**Wetland Bird Survey: Pale-bellied Brent Goose in Wales 1984/85-2019/20.**




Max. counts at other sites: FLINT: 12 on Clwyd est. on 13 Feb., increasing to 27 on 3 March; ANGLESEY: 62 at Traeth Dulas on 18 Jan.; 379 on Alaw est. on 18 Feb.; 81 at Rhosneigr on 6 March; 155 at Abermenai Pt on 23 Nov.; 85 at Red Wharf Bay on 27 Nov.

Unseasonal: ANGLESEY: one at Cemlyn on 4-23 May.

Monthly max. at the main sites.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | *c.*160 | *c.*200 | 240 | | | 230 | 68+ | 263 | *c.*300 |
| Traeth Lafan | 44 | 12 | | 84 | | 1 | 1 | 55 | 60 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyranl | 403 | 415 | 345 | | | 49 | 207 | 555 | 308 |
| Traeth Melynog | 542 | 482 | 40 | | | | 717 | 481 | |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | |
| Dee estuary | 56 | 180 | 29 | | | | 5 | 30 | 66 |

Approximate monthly totals of both subspecies, excluding those above:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *bernicla* | 3 | 2 | | | | | 1 | 3 | | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| *hrota* | 101 | 126 | 34 | 69 | 2 | | | 4 | 82 | 84 | 85 | 38 |
| race unknown | | 2 | 7 | 8 | | | | 1 | 3 | 13 | 8 | 6 |

MEIRIONNYDD: 1-2 of the *hrota* subspecies at Tonfanau on 13-16 Oct. was the first county record since 2011.

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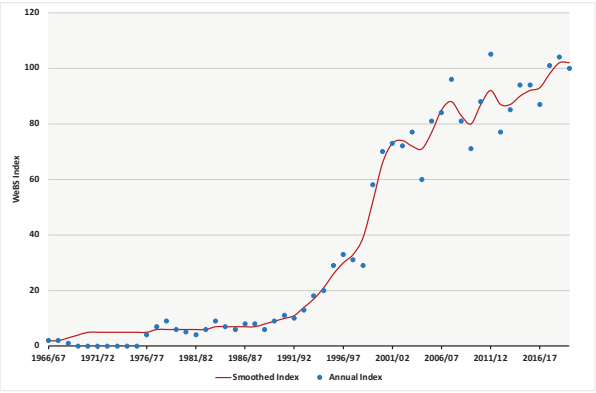
**CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis* GWYDD CANADA

*Fairly common (8850 breeding pairs) and increasing introduced breeding resident (Category C). Large post-breeding gatherings occur.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **5024** | **3876** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **22%** | **18%** |

**Wetland Bird Survey: Canada Goose in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




The rate of growth in breeding numbers in Wales has been slower this century compared to the last, but the Wetland Bird Survey index remains at an all-time high. The BirdTrack reporting rate was at its lowest for several years.

Breeding records, presumed under-recorded: GWENT: four broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), three at Garn Lakes, two near Osbaston and one at Llanfihangel Gobion; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at 22 locations and probably/possibly at 43; GOWER: 13/14 pairs at seven sites; CARMARTHEN: four pairs bred at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: at least 15 pairs bred on Skomer; BRECON: bred at multiple sites, mostly 1-2 pairs, but a crèche of 67 on Llangorse Lake; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Bryn Rhug, Dolgellau, and nine pairs at seven sites; CAERNARFON: bred on Llyn Idwal and Llynnau Cwm Silyn and probably/possibly bred at

four sites; ANGLESEY: pair bred at Cemlyn; DENBIGH: bred at Llewenni watermeadows and fledged young at eight other sites, including Llyn Aled Isaf in Mynydd Hiraethog; FLINT: bred on Clwyd est.

The number of sites holding at least 300 birds was below the 10-year mean. In East Glamorgan, records came from a record 151 sites.

| *>=300 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Knap lake, Barry | 61 | 32 | | 1 | | 10 | | | 217 | 311 | 54 | 45 |
| Ogmore estuary | 120 | 119 | 18 | | 22 | 51 | 66 | 382 | 455 | 500 | 158 | 162 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dryslwyn/Cilsan | 22 | 340 | 115 | | 2 | | | | 174 | 86 | 653 | 491 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 318 | 113 | 11 | | | 227 | 49 | | 101 | 443 | 287 | 420 |
| Nevern estuary | | 10 | 32 | | | 8 | 3 | 140 | 480 | 225 | | |
| PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Teifi estuary | 180 | 125 | 10 | | | 225 | 360 | 800 | 350 | 300 | 30 | 620 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 360 | 251 | 82 | 170 | 70 | 565 | 370 | 615 | 58 | 219 | 130 | 359 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary | 205 | 833 | 131 | | | | | | 277 | 479 | 455 | 654 |
| Glaslyn Marshes | 0 | 700 | 30 | | | | | | | | 7 | 100 |
| Mawddach estuary | | 271 | | | | | 153 | 300 | 283 | 184 | 335 | |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR | 1800 | 1500 | 2000 | | | | | 300 | 2000 | 1190 | 3000 | 2000 |
| Gronant | | 2 | 27 | 4 | 4 | | | 40 | 425 | | | |
| White Sands | | | 50 | | | | | 270 | 400 | 61 | 800 | 41 |
| Clwyd estuary | 147 | 89 | 116 | 74 | 110 | 192 | 175 | 320 | 85 | 188 | 21 | 101 |

*620 recorded from the Ceredigion side “during the winter”.

Counts >=300 elsewhere: GWENT: a survey of 200km of river found 383 in Nov. and 222 in Dec.; 304 at Bryn Bach Park in June; 800 at Ponthir Res. on 18 Oct.; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: throughout the year, up to 1800 on Dyfi est.; MONTGOMERY: *c*.900 at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas in late autumn; MEIRIONNYDD: 577 at Talsarnau on 14 Feb.; 2500+ at Glandyfi on 3 Aug. was a new county record.

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**BARNACLE GOOSE** *Branta leucopsis* GWYDD WYRAN

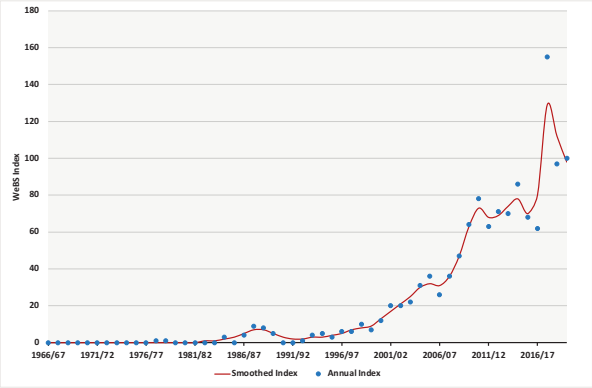
*A regular winter visitor to the Dyfi estuary (breeding in Cumbria). Scarce breeder, but regular at two sites since the early 21st century (Category C). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **219** | **104** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Breeding: CEREDIGION: travel restrictions prevented any visits to Cardigan Island; BRECON: four broods on Llangorse Lake.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has dropped from its high point in 2017/18, but was nonetheless the second highest on record. The 719 on the Dyfi estuary, CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD, in November 2019 (*cf*. 608 stated in last year’s report) is the largest count ever in Wales, but most departed before the year-end, leaving very few in the first winter period of 2020. Notable in the table below is a count of 211 at Ponthir Reservoir, Gwent.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Barnacle Goose in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Approximate monthly totals for each county.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 10 | 2 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 211 | 5 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| CEREDIGION/PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Teifi estuary/Cardigan Island | 134 | | | | | | | 110 | 153 | | | |
| CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dyfi estuary | | | | | | | | | 140 | 50 | 580 | |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | | | 40 | 31 | nc | 46 | nc | 27 | 1 | | | 1 |
| MEIRIONNYDD except Dyfi | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | 33 | | | | |
| ANGLESEY | | | 4 | 1 | | | | 24 | 2 | 4 | 3 | |
| FLINT | 1 | 2 | 5 | | | 9 | | | | | 1 | 1 |

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**GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser* GWYDD LWYD

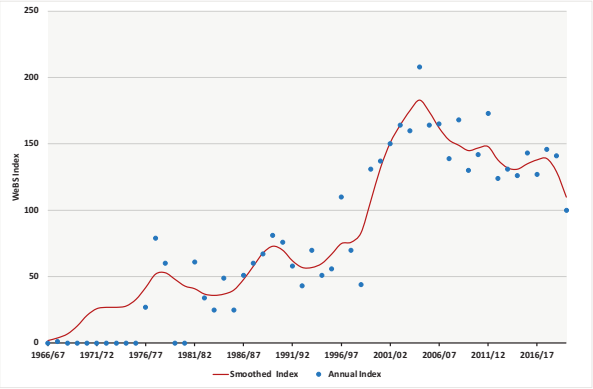
*All records relate to naturalised birds (Category C). Localised breeder (1650 pairs), mainly in the north but increasing farther south.*

| | **2019** | **2020** |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **2502** | **1918** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **11%** | **9%** |

The BirdTrack reporting rate had been increasing steadily, but dropped back in 2020, perhaps because many wetland sites were less accessible during COVID-19 restrictions.

Breeding: GWENT: at least eight broods at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); E.GLAMORGAN: single pairs bred at three sites; GOWER: bred on R.Neath saltmarsh; BRECON: possibly bred at Dolymynach Res.; MONTGOMERY: nests at Lymore Pool; MEIRIONNYDD: territorial pair at Llangar Church, Bryn Saint, on 13 March; CAERNARFON: bred at three sites; ANGLESEY: brood at Cemlyn; DENBIGH: bred at Llewenni watermeadows and fledged young at four other sites, including Llyn Brân (385m asl); FLINT: bred on Clwyd est.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Greylag Goose in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Following a sustained increase in numbers around the turn of the century, the last 15 years have seen a reversal in fortunes for Greylag Geese, with the Wetland Bird Survey index for 2019/20 at its lowest point since 1998/99.

The number of sites with over 100 birds was less than half that recorded in 2019, and well below the 10-year mean.

| *>=100 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staffal Haegr/Llanrhidian | 3 | | | | | | | 100 | 321 | 50 | 150 | 131 |
| Gowerton saltmarsh | 44 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 14 | | | 22 | | 63 | 10 | 135 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 45 | 18 | 30 | 56 | 45 | 90 | 42 | 12 | 165 | 101 | 8 | 9 |
| Dryslwyn/Cilsan | 6 | 51 | 36 | | | | | | 45 | 50 | 250 | 300 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 56 | 15 | | | | | | | 7 | 2 | 7 | 130 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 47 | | 13 | | | | 1 | 480 | | | 30 | 3 |
| Traeth Lafan | *c.*25 | *c.*15 | 47 | 8 | 22 | 15 | 18 | 10 | 156 | 218 | 17 | 44 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 17 | 101 | 157 | 122 | | | | 260 | 319 | 651 | 279 | 0 |
| Llyn Coron | 0 | 0 | 12 | | | | 0 | 88 | 260 | 150 | 0 | 68 |
| RSPB Cors Ddyga | 20 | 0 | 36 | | | | | | 70 | 137 | 50 | 20 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lleweni watermeadows | 375 | 384 | 69 | | 74 | | 1 | | | 229 | 289 | 63 |
| Holt, Dee valley | | 150 | 51 | 4 | 2 | | | | | 200 | 400 | |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clwyd estuary | 124 | 89 | 23 | 33 | 50 | 39 | 160 | 440 | 165 | 520 | 566 | 384 |
| Point of Ayr | | | 1 | | | | 9 | 13 | 500 | 200 | 24 | 32 |

Counts/maxima >=100 elsewhere: GOWER: 118 at Wernffrwd in July and 108 here in Dec.; CEREDIGION: 115 at Llyn Eiddwen on 8 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 101 at Dolydd Hafren on 19 Jan. and *c.*120 here on 22 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 140 at Glan Faenol on 22 Dec.; DENBIGH: 190 at Llyn Brenig on 11 July; FLINT: *c.*110 at Fagl Lane GP on 20 Jan.

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**TAIGA BEAN GOOSE** *Anser fabalis* GWYDD LAFUR Y TAIGA

*Rare visitor from northeast Europe and Siberia. WBRC: eight previous records.*

ANGLESEY: one at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 27-28 Sept. was the first county record attributed to species, and

the first Welsh record since 1997. It occurred at the same time as others elsewhere in Britain.

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**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus* GWYDD DROETBINC

*Regular on the Dee estuary (Flintshire), in growing numbers since 2010. Elsewhere, a scarce and irregular winter visitor, chiefly to North Wales. Spring and summer records relate to naturalised birds, as may some winter and autumn records. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 272 | 287 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 1% | 1% |

The highest count on the Dee estuary, FLINT, during the first winter period was 5000 on White Sands and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh in early March. In the second winter period, the peak count was a Welsh record 10,000 birds from Connah's Quay NR on 9 Oct., although the Wetland Bird Survey peak here was only 2000 birds nine days later. The BirdTrack reporting rate (1.2%) was the highest ever.

County totals in each month away from the Dee.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | | 3 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | 3 | | | | | |
| GOWER | | | 1 | | | | | |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | 1 | 6 | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 1 | | | | | | | |
| CAERNARFON | 1 | | | | *c*.20 | | | |
| ANGLESEY | 20 | 29 | | | 1 | | 5 | 1 |
| DENBIGH | 39 | 1 | | | 23 | | 41 | |
| FLINT | | 1 | | | | | 120 | |

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**TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE** *Anser serrirostris* GWYDD LAFUR Y TWNDRA

*Rare visitor from northeast Europe and Siberia. WBRC: seven previous records.*

GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) and then Nedern and Caldicot Pill, from 21 Nov. to 7 May 2021. This was the first Welsh record since 2012, and the first in South Wales since 2002.

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**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser albifrons* GWYDD DALCENWEN

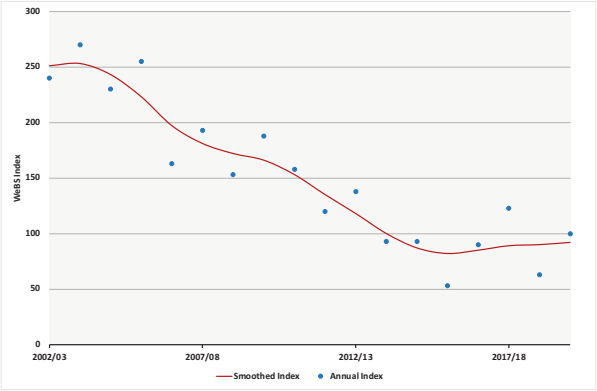
*Scarce winter visitor. Ceredigion and Anglesey support the only regular flocks of flavirostris. Rare elsewhere, although hard weather can result in increases in albifrons from the east. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 86 | 105 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

***A.a. flavirostris* (Greenland White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcenwen yr Ynys Las)**

There has been a global decline in numbers of this subspecies, with a flyway population of just 22,000 birds. The Dyfi estuary peak was the highest since 2013 thanks to a flock of nine that joined the 21 overwintering birds for a month, while the presence of at least 18 on Anglesey in both winter periods helped to lift the Wales index a little.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Greenland White-fronted Goose in Wales 2002/03-2019/20**




All records: CARMARTHEN: one at Penclacwydd on 1 Feb.; PEMBROKE: seven at Gann est. on 24 Jan. and Marloes Mere on 25th; two on Skokholm on 13 Oct.; one at Marloes Mere on 25 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: one on the Teifi est. on 13 and 15 Nov.; CEREDIGION: max. 30 on the Dyfi est. from 24 Jan. to 23 Feb., with 21 remaining into March; max. 27 on 15 Nov., of which 15 remained to the year-end; ANGLESEY: up to 18 in the Cefni Valley and Llyn Coron in Jan. and 15 here in Feb.; also two at Hen Borth on 29 Jan., four at Llanynghenedl on 3 Feb., six at Llyn Alaw on 5 Feb. and seven at Llanfachraeth on 4-29 Feb. then at Llyn Llywenan on 3-22 March; nine west past Cemlyn on 21 Oct. and one here on 22nd; six at Llyn Coron on 6 Nov.; four at Red Wharf Bay on 6 and 26 Nov.; two south of Pentraeth on 21 Nov.; 18 in the Cefni Valley from 22 Nov. to 18 Dec.

***A.a. albifrons* (European White-fronted Goose / Gŵydd Dalcenwen Ewrop)**
Just six, perhaps seven, individuals is less than half of the 10-year average for a subspecies that is now scarce in Wales.

All records, singles unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 9-10 Nov.; Caldicot Pill on 29 Nov.; Llandegfedd Res. from 29 Nov. to 6 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 5 and 7 Nov.; Kenfig Pool on 4-28 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Dryslwyn on 1-2 Feb.; Cilsan Bridge on 1 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 16-23 Nov.

CARMARTHEN, one at Penclacwydd on 26 April and 12 south over Pwll on 15 Oct. were not attributed to subspecies; FLINT: one on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7 March was attributed by different observers to different subspecies.

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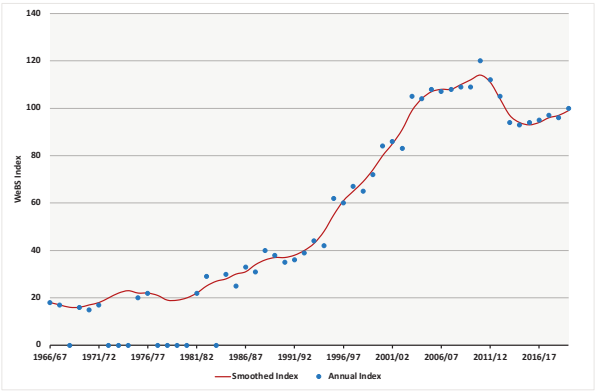
**MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor* ALARCH DOF
*Localised resident (485 breeding pairs). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 4599 | 3599 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 20% | 17% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate was markedly lower than in recent years, which may reflect that some wetlands were visited less frequently during 2020 owing to COVID-19 travel restrictions. It is reported that cygnets at Tirfounder Fields, East Glamorgan, were shot at.

Breeding counts (not full surveys except Gower): GWENT: 14 pairs nested at 13 sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 pairs bred at 15 sites; GOWER: 11 successful nests from 15 attempts, hatching 54 cygnets of which 47 fledged; CARMARTHEN: six pairs bred successfully at four sites; PEMBROKE: bred at seven sites; CEREDIGION: bred along the lower Teifi and at Teifi marshes; nested at Nanteos pool; two pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: six nests at Llangorse Lake, and single nests at 11 other sites, but several adults/cygnets killed, probably by American Mink; RADNOR: brood at Llyn Heilyn; CAERNARFON: single pairs bred at Parc Menai and Tal-y-cafn; ANGLESEY: bred at Malltraeth Cob pool; DENBIGH: bred at Erddig, Hanmer Pool and Borras.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Mute Swan in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Non-breeding: the population is making a slow recovery following a sharp drop between 2010/11 and 2013/14, although the frequency of recording on BirdTrack lists has fallen substantially from a peak of 24% in 2016.

Counts >=40 elsewhere: GWENT: a survey of 200km of river found 78 in Nov. and 99 in Dec. (Tyler and Clarke 2021); E.GLAMORGAN: 37 on R.Taff between Blackweir and Butetown on 28 Dec.; RADNOR: 206 on the lower R.Wye on 10 Dec.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=40 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=40 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Roath Park Lake | 50 | 46 | 50 | P | 10+ | 46 | 74 | 61 | 45 | 39 | 55 | |
| Cardiff Bay & Hamadryad | 14 | 13 | 20 | 35 | 89 | 180 | 195 | 108 | 59 | 45 | 28 | 35 |
| Cosmeston Lakes CP | 40 | 38 | 61 | 22 | 8 | 11 | 17 | 30 | 40 | 36 | 33 | 29 |
| Knap lake, Barry | 47 | 54 | 41 | 60 | 61 | 52 | 63 | 68 | 53 | 42 | 40 | 50 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandy Water Park | 6 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 43 | 68 | 66 | 61 | 32 | 23 | 19 | 17 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 82 | 51 | 45 | | | 26 | 45 | | 110 | 98 | 51 | 74 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 12 | 16 | 16 | 21 | 134 | 176 | 194 | 216* | 145 | 107 | 65 | 43 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 13 | 5 | 6 | | | | *c*.150 | 134 | 148 | 81 | 13 | 6 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 17 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | 64 | 61 | 28 | 41 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Conwy | 14 | 12 | 14 | P | P | P | 10 | 41 | 25 | 48 | 22 | 25 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clwyd estuary | 4 | 3 | 7 | 53 | 76 | 64 | 23 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 5 |

*county record

**BEWICK'S SWAN** *Cygnus columbianus* ALARCH BEWICK

*Irregular winter visitor in vanishingly small numbers. Red WeBS alert: -63% long-term and -72% short-term. Wales Red-listed.*

We do not usually include an account for a species that has not occurred in Wales during the year, but it feels like a landmark moment as we are not aware of a single record of Bewick's Swan in 2020, perhaps for the first time ever. The International Swan Census in January 2020 (WWT 2021) counted 1278 Bewick's Swan in Britain and Ireland, the lowest ever total (*cf*. 7100 in 2010). Only 12 were found in Ireland, which explains their absence in Wales, since at least some records were of birds stopping here *en route* to or from Ireland.

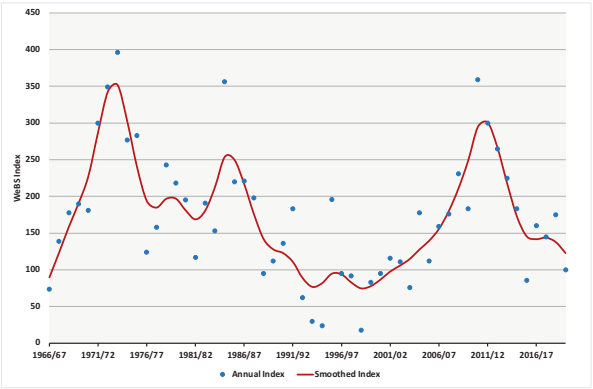
**WHOOPER SWAN** *Cygnus cygnus* ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

*Regular winter visitor in small numbers to several Welsh counties, but winter range has generally shifted southeast into England. Red WeBS alert: -56% short-term (the greatest decline in any UK country) but +21% for long-term. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 251 | 200 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

The Wetland Bird Survey index for 2019/20 was in the lowest 25% of all the counts since 1966/67, and the smoothed index for Wales has fallen 60% in just eight years. The 9th International Swan Census in January 2020 showed the population is Britain and Ireland had increased by 27% since 2015, and 300% since 1995, but less than 1% of the total was found in Wales. Flocks of >10 birds were seen at eight sites, the lowest number for many years (*cf*. 15 in 2019). The count in the Tywi valley, Carmarthenshire, in January matched the largest ever in the county, in February 2019.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Whooper Swan in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Counts at regular sites.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | |
| Tywi valley | 80 | 42 | 55 | | 27 | 46 | 51 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | |
| R. Glaslyn | 68 | 69 | 72 | | | 11 | 41 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | |
| Cefni Res. area | | 15 | 36 | | | | |
| FLINT | | | | | | | |
| Dee estuary | 18 | 24 | 24 | | 3 | 14 | 26 |

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 2 | | | | | 1 | 7 |
| GOWER | | | 1 | | | | |
| PEMBROKE | 3 | 2 | | | 2 | 8 | 14 |
| CEREDIGION | 10 | 2 | | | 11 | 21 | 19 |
| BRECON | | | | | 3 | | |
| MONTGOMERY | 11 | | | | | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 3 | 5 | | | 5 | 2 | |
| CAERNARFON | 4 | 4 | 7 | | 21 | 14 | |
| ANGLESEY | | | 12 | | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| DENBIGH | | | 5 | | | 2 | |
| FLINT | 4 | | | | | | |

May-Sept. records, singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: Gann est. and Marloes Mere on 26 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Ferryside on 24 May; Kidwelly from 4 June to 9 Sept.; two at Penclacwydd in Sept.; CAERNARFON: Aber Ogwen from 24 July to 11 Oct.; two at Nefyn on 19 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 14 over Bull Bay on 26 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 27 Sept.; FLINT: Gronant from 13 May to 29 June.

**EGYPTIAN GOOSE** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* GWYDD YR AIFFT

*Introduced (Category C). Despite an increase in numbers and range in England, it remains scarce in Wales.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 125 | 114 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Five birds is just half of the 2005-19 average and 20% of the 2019 record total. All records were singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: long-staying bird at Aberdare Park again during Feb.-April and July-Dec.; GOWER: Loughor Bridge on 23 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: Banc-y-Lord on 5 July; MONTGOMERY: Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 21-22 Nov.; FLINT: RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 5 Sept.

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**SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna* HWYADEN YR EITHIN

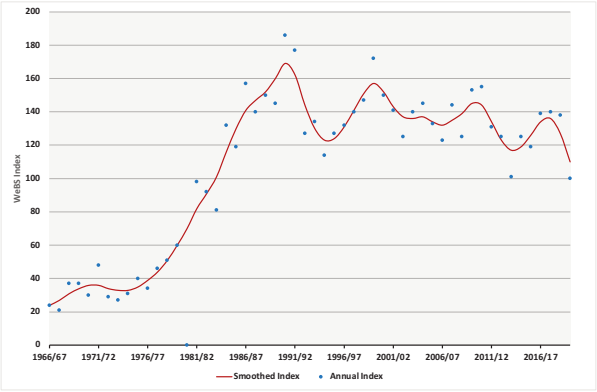
*Localised, possibly declining, breeding resident (1250 pairs) in coastal areas. Rare passage migrant to inland counties. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3377 | 2515 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 14% | 11% |

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=100 birds at least once during the year was slightly below the 10-year mean.

| >=100 birds | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caldicott Pill | 186 | 54 | 35 | | | | 14 | 25 | 244 | 263 | 231 | 176 |
| Collister Pill | 63 | 37 | | | | | | | 3 | | | 114 |
| Newport Wetlands | *c*.180 | 316 | *c*.100 | | | 45 | 260+ | 120 | 150+ | 20 | 220 | 50+ |
| Peterstone Wentlooge | | | | | | | | | 113 | | | 128 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rhymney estuary | 25 | 20 | 75 | 42 | 15 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 250 | | 50 | 69 |
| Rumney Great Wharf | 65 | 130 | 70 | | | 21 | P | 20 | | 6 | 12 | 60 |
| Cardiff Bay heliport | 20 | 45 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | | 289 | 116 | 50 | |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 260 | 234 | 114 | | | | 20 | | | 100 | 300 | 189 |
| Weobley | 137 | | 34 | 41 | 26 | 12 | 31 | | | 583 | 129 | 104 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 265 | 142 | 157 | 149 | 147 | 187 | 76 | | 24 | 134 | 147 | 58 |
| Gwendraeth estuary | 149 | 100 | 50 | | | 15 | 5 | | 15 | 20 | 60 | 12 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 393 | 341 | 296 | | | 63 | 13 | | 6 | 43 | 149 | 348 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary | 63 | 63 | 29 | | | | | | 17 | 43 | 66 | 204 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Y Foryd | 220 | 236 | 120 | | | | 12 | 16 | | 28 | 46 | 110 |
| Traeth Lafan | 515 | 296 | 317 | 32 | 22 | | 2 | | 15 | 195 | 278 | 707 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Melynog | 299 | 126 | 50 | | | | | | 28 | 353 | 767 | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 182 | 184 | 184 | | | | | | 22 | 77 | 82 | 114 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clwyd estuary | 82 | 84 | 148 | 164 | 96 | 105 | 64 | 9 | 16 | 96 | 118 | 108 |
| RSPB Point of Ayr | 58 | 40 | 66 | 6 | 16 | 37 | 233 | 286 | 500 | 1000 | 600 | 300 |
| Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR | 100 | 150 | 150 | | | | | 50 | 85 | 170 | 80 | 80 |
| Flint | 50 | | 47 | 6 | 33 | | | 314 | 308 | 60 | 18 | 61 |
| Ffynnongroyw Bay | 285 | | 6 | | | | 30 | 45 | 700 | 116 | 1 | 14 |
| White Sands | 83 | | 25 | | | | | 280 | 7 | 18 | 24 | 2 |

**Wetland Bird Survey: Shelduck in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




In Pembrokeshire, 14 non-breeders in the Daugleddau estuary survey in June was among the lowest recorded since annual surveillance began in 1992, although numbers were reported to have been higher immediately prior to the survey. The BirdTrack reporting rate was also the lowest ever, continuing a downward trend throughout the last decade.

Breeding: GWENT: pair bred at Peterstone Gout; E.GLAMORGAN: brood on the Ogmore est.; probably/possibly bred at eight other sites; GOWER: bred at three sites; CARMARTHEN: four pairs bred at Penclacwydd; one brood at Kidwelly Quay; PEMBROKE: 11 broods in Milford Haven Waterway and Daugleddau est., fewer than 2019; CEREDIGION: bred at Dyfi est., Cors Fochno and Teifi est.; BRECON: pair on Llangorse Lake in March/April included a 'tame' female present since appearing as a juvenile in 2017; MEIRIONNYDD: estimated that Dwyryd est. holds 15 pairs, Artro est. 11 pairs, Mawddach est. at least 10 pairs and Yr Ynys/Glandyfi area of the Dyfi est. holds 10-12 pairs; CAERNARFON: two pairs bred at Foryd, five pairs in the Menai Strait and two pairs on Bardsey; also seen in Conwy Valley; ANGLESEY: broods at The Skerries, Traeth Dulas and Cefni est.; FLINT: bred on R.Clwyd below Rhuddlan.

Non-breeding: numbers monitored by the Wetland Bird Survey are far higher than in the 1970s, but the smoothed index for Wales was at its lowest since 1984/85. The number of sites with more than 100 birds, in the table below, was typical.

Counts >=100 additional to table on p.27: GOWER: 549 in Burry Inlet on 18 Jan. (260 at Whiteford, 60 at Landimore, 137 at Weobley and 92 at Salthouse Pt), 347 here on 18 Oct. (309 at Landimore and 38 at Llanrhidian), 607 on 22 Nov. (160 at Whiteford/Landimore, 129 at Weobley, 70 at Llanrhidian, 71 at Crofty and 177 at Penclawdd); *c.*300 at Daltons Pt on 5 Nov.; 320 at Llanrhidian on 15 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 103 at Cefn Padrig on 19 Jan.; 171 at Machynys on 6 Feb. and 372 here on 12 Nov.; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: 266 on the Dyfi est. in Jan.; ANGLESEY: 65 at Red Wharf Bay on 11 March and 151 here in Dec.; *c.*400 on Cefni est. on 18 Oct.

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**MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata* HWYADEN MANDARIN

*Introduced (Category C). Localised breeding resident, but almost certainly under-recorded in core counties in eastern Wales.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 188 | 185 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Although the BirdTrack reporting rate remains below 1%, the 2020 rate (0.8%) continues an upward trend throughout the last decade. 2020 saw the first confirmed breeding in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. In eastern counties, records are now too numerous to merit individual mention in county reports, but nonetheless the totals recorded across Wales were the highest ever, from every county except Anglesey. Breeding is very under-reported, with only 11 broods seen in 2020, below the average for 2010-19 but also doubtless influenced by COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Confirmed breeding: GWENT: two broods on R.Monnow, near Osbaston and Tregate; GOWER: brood at Neath Canal and on R.Clydach at Bryncoch; CARMARTHEN: pair at Llanpumsaint on 13 March and one here on 3 May; female with five young on R.Aman, near Glanaman, on 7 June was the first confirmed breeding record for the county; PEMBROKE: pair fledged one young in Lower Town Fishguard, the first county record; BRECON: brood at Tregaer Bridge, R.Wye; RADNOR: brood at Clifford Common; MEIRIONNYDD: nesting pair at Trwyn Sych, Four Crosses; DENBIGH: bred at Holt Fields and Erddig.

Records from county bird reports where provided (*others from BirdTrack).

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT* | 25 | 5 | 19 | 8 | 5 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 85[1] | 83[1] |
| E. GLAMORGAN | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| GOWER | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| CARMARTHEN* | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| PEMBROKE | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | | | 2 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| BRECON | 4 | 20 | 14 | 8 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 21 | *c.*104 | 1 |
| RADNOR* | | | 8 | 7 | 2 | | | 2 | | | 216 | |
| MONTGOMERY | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | |
| MEIRIONNYDD[2] | 1 | | 13 | 5 | | | 1 | 2 | | 4 | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| DENBIGH | 18 | 17 | 45 | 15 | 56 | 43 | 13 | 32 | 26 | 8 | 7 | 25 |
| FLINT | | | 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | | | | 7 | | 2 |

[1] Counts from survey of 200km of rivers in Gwent (Tyler and Clarke 2021).

[2] Sightings at Pont Croesor included in Meirionnydd, not Caernarfonshire.

Notable counts included in the table: BRECON: *c.*100 at Caban Coch Res. on 15 Nov. may have been part of the large count elsewhere in the Elan Valley that month; RADNOR: a Welsh record of at least 216 in the Elan Valley on 8 Nov. and 195+ on Garred-ddu Res. alone on 10th; DENBIGH: 37 at Wynnstay Lake on 31 May; 31 at Lleweni watermeadows on 18 Aug.

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**GARGANEY** *Spatula querquedula* HWYADEN ADDFAIN

*Recorded in small numbers on passage and occasionally breeds (9-10 confirmed records, none since 1999). RBBP: five pairs in 2019. Wales Amber listed.*

| | **2019** | **2020** |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **151** | **107** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

There were 21 records involving 32 birds (the total in the table below is higher as some birds occurred in more than one month), the lowest number since 2011, although doubtless influenced by restricted access to wetlands in

Numbers in each county.

| | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | 1 | | 1 | | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | 1 |
| GOWER | | | | 1* | | | 1 | | 1* | 1* |
| CARMARTHEN | | | 2 | 1 | | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| BRECON | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | 5 | | | | | | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| ANGLESEY | | 1 | 1+ | 1+ | | | 2 | | | |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | 1 | | | |

*male at Gnoll Park, Neath, on 2-21 Jan. presumed to be same bird here in June, Nov. and Dec.

late March-May. A male at Neath, GOWER, in Jan. and Nov./Dec. and a female at Cardiff Bay Wetland on 28 Dec. were unseasonal. Occurrence qualified as possible breeding in East Glamorgan, where a pair was at Kenfig NNR from 25 March to at least 9 May. Notable was a group of five at Porthmadog Cob, Meirionnydd, on 10 April.

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**SHOVELER** *Spatula clypeata* HWYADEN LYDANBIG

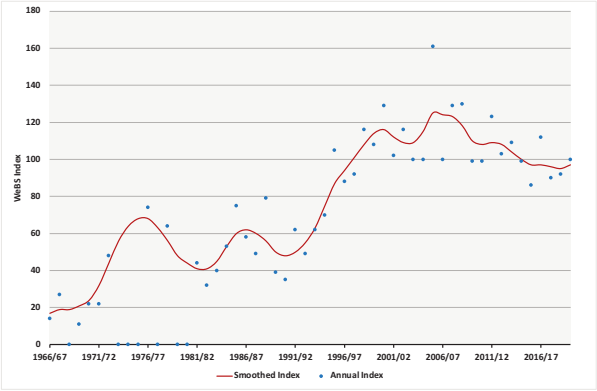
*Locally common winter visitor/passage migrant and rare breeder. RBBP: 2 confirmed (and 34 probable/possible) in 2019. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **1691** | **1223** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **7%** | **6%** |

Breeding: 11 pairs is almost treble the 2005-19 average, despite no surveys being undertaken at wetlands on Anglesey; GWENT: brood at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); GOWER: brood at Staffal Haegr; PEMBROKE: three pairs on Skomer; brood at Marloes Mere; FLINT: three of five pairs at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands reserve were in the Welsh part of the reserve.

Non-breeding: the rate of decline evident over the last 15 years in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has slowed, but the species remains more abundant than in the late 20th century.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Shoveler in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=50 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=50 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newport Wetlands | 100+ | 116 | 62 | | | 13 | 3 | 30+ | 100 | 30 | 40+ | 61+ |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crofty/Salthouse Pt | 70+ | | | | | | | | | 52 | 166 | 79 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 43 | 44 | 34 | | 13 | 6 | 7 | 27 | 80 | 35 | 14 | 12 |
| Taf estuary | 70 | 33 | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 75 | 96 | 118 | 7 | | | | 2 | 21 | 32 | 107 | 101 |
| Cefni Reservoir | 97 | | | | | | | | | | | 18 |
| RSPB Cors Ddyga | 44 | 20 | 26 | | | | | | 38 | 48 | 75 | 75 |

Counts >=50 elsewhere: GOWER: 50+ at Whiteford NNR on 19 Jan.; 70+ at Wernffrwd on 20 Oct. and 146 here on 9 Nov.

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**GADWALL** *Mareca strepera* HWYADEN LWYD

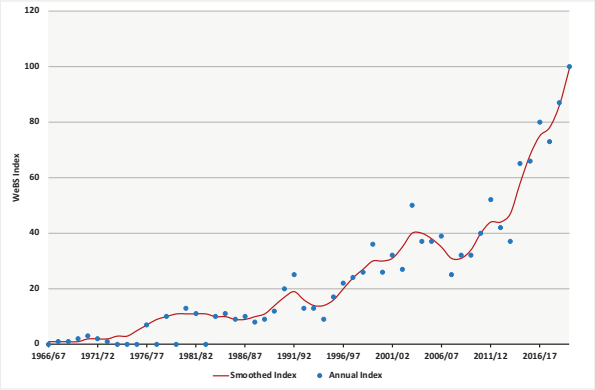
*Regular but localised breeding bird since 1969 (estimated 50-100 pairs). A regular winter visitor to most counties. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1797 | 1155 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 8% | 5% |

Breeding: min. 31 pairs *(cf.* 46 in 2019), far lower than usual because no surveys were undertaken on Anglesey wetlands owing to COVID-19. GWENT: pair bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Kenfig rivermouth; GOWER: bred at Staffal Haegr; CARMARTHEN: 23 pairs bred at Penclacwydd, also bred at four other sites; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Valley Wetlands.

Non-breeding: in contrast to most wildfowl, wintering Gadwall numbers have increased markedly in Wales since the late 1980s. 2019/20 represented a new high point, 15% more than the previous year's Wetland Bird Survey, the largest increase of any freshwater species. The Welsh population has increased 600% in the last 25 years.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Gadwall in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Counts >=20 elsewhere: GWENT: 46 at St Pierre Lake, Leechpool; GOWER: in Upper R.Loughor, 22 at Castell-du on 29 Jan., 26 here on 8 March and 31 at Bwlchmynydd on 8 March; DENBIGH: *c.*20 at Maesmynan GP on 4 Jan.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=20 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=20 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newport Wetlands | 40 | 25 | 12 | | | 9 | 6 | 12 | 17 | 8 | 6 | 12 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kenfig Pool | 50 | 47 | 36 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 22 | 22 | 13 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Staffal Haegr | 32 | 27 | 10 | | 3 | 19 | 7 | 12 | 28 | 13 | | 23 |
| Penllergaer Valley Lakes | 11 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 10 | 20 | 8 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 52 | 67 | 40 | 61 | 107 | 94 | 45 | 120 | 145 | 157 | 115 | 74 |
| Penrhyngwyn Pond | | | 3 | | | | 13 | 20 | 24 | | | 78 |
| Ffos-las | 10 | | 7 | | | 1 | | | | | 17 | 32 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marloes Mere | 9 | 20 | 10 | | | | | | | | 4 | 4 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 31 | 38 | 25 | 6 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 10 | 8 | 12 | 20 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cefni Reservoir | 73 | 46 | | | | | | 42 | 22 | | | 8 |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 11 | 27 | 31 | 16 | | | | 50 | 63 | 21 | 25 | 30 |
| RSPB Cors Ddyga | 0 | 0 | 8 | | | | | | 6 | 59 | 6 | 30 |
| Llyn Maelog | 2 | | 3 | | | | 58 | 18 | 7 | 9 | 0 | 5 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Conwy | 57 | 50 | 54 | P | P | P | 7 | 22 | 29 | 25 | 44 | 46 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Connah's Quay NR | 5 | 8 | 2 | | | | | 5 | 9 | 4 | 21 | 24 |
| Shotwick/Burton Mere | 28 | 22 | 1 | | 6 | | | | 3 | | 16 | |
| Shotton Mill | 23 | 51 | 29 | | | | | | | | | |
| Shotton Steelworks | 44 | | 2 | | | | 37 | 36 | 33 | | | |

**WIGEON** *Mareca penelope* CHWIWELL

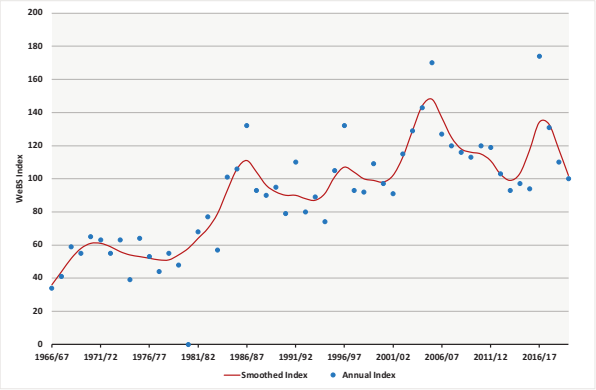
*Common passage migrant and locally abundant winter visitor, chiefly to coastal counties. Rare breeder: five confirmed records, but none since 1978 (RBBP: three possible pairs in 2019). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **2338** | **2130** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **9%** | **9%** |

Breeding season: ANGLESEY: pair on Alaw est. on 13 June possibly summered, but no evidence of breeding.

Non-breeding: aside from the occasional influx, such as in 2005/06 and 2016/17, Wigeon numbers wintering in Wales have remained fairly stable this century, having increased during the latter part of the previous one.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Wigeon in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




The number of sites holding >=300 birds at least once during the year was the lowest since 2008.

| *>=300 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newport Wetlands | 260 | 240 | 100+ | | | | 1 | | 14 | 65 | 80 | 360 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 220 | 77 | | | | | | | 135 | 882 | 330 | 282 |
| Daltons Pt/Penclawdd | 177 | 28 | | | | | | | | 300 | 400 | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dryslwyn/Cilsan | 403 | 100 | 49 | | | | | | | 66 | 278 | 545 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 1891 | 475 | 133 | | | | | | 2701 | 7389 | 7485 | 4104 |
| PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Teifi estuary | 235 | 154 | 64 | | | | | | 93 | 300 | 274 | 300 |
| CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dyfi estuary | 2476 | 489 | | | | | | | | | 1775 | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary | 618 | 450 | 0 | | | | | | 405 | 645 | 302 | 814 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llanengan floods | | 250 | 200 | | | | | | | | | 350 |
| Traeth Lafan | 1318 | 1079 | 454 | | | 1 | 2 | | 1025 | 1195 | 1623 | 1933 |
| Foryd | 680 | 170 | *c*.50 | | | | | 3 | 1392 | 4460 | 1900 | 1070 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Melynog | 246 | 27 | 0 | | | | | | 602 | 1448 | 909 | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 570 | 367 | 284 | | | | | | 74 | 1554 | 1788 | 1130 |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 213 | 117 | 0 | 0 | | | | 0 | 198 | 49 | 240 | 437 |
| RSPB Cors Ddyga | 304 | 310 | 180 | | | | | | 351 | 188 | 260 | 270 |
| Malltraeth Cob & estuary | 75 | 213 | | | | | | | 19 | 219 | 568 | 178 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Conwy | 168 | 70 | 45 | P | | | 1 | 2 | 70 | 303 | 173 | 100 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clwyd estuary | 330 | 310 | 156 | 174 | | | | 2 | 55 | 346 | 430 | 362 |
| Point of Ayr | 429 | 50 | 319 | | | | | | 54 | 200 | 120 | 330 |
| Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR | 800 | 400 | 400 | | | | | | 20 | 312 | 800 | 3000 |
| White Sands | 26 | | 52 | | | | | | 12 | 62 | 900 | 36 |

Counts >=300 elsewhere: GWENT: 473 at Nedern Brook, Caldicot, in Feb.; GOWER: 315 at Wernffrwd on 10 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 450 at Port Neigwl on 1 Dec.

**AMERICAN WIGEON** *Mareca americana* CHWIWELL AMERICA

*Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 23 previous records.*

GWENT: one at Peterstone on 15-17 Jan.

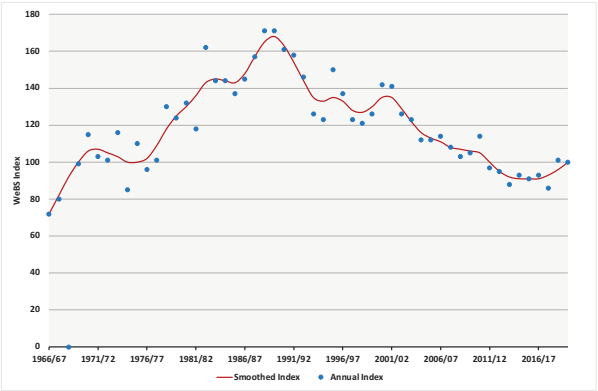
**MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos* HWYADEN WYLLT

*Fairly common breeding resident (4600-11,000 pairs), abundant passage migrant and winter visitor to all counties. Amber WeBS alert: -43% long-term. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 8575 | 7142 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 37% | 34% |

With no Breeding Bird Survey data, it is not known whether the recent decline has continued, but the BirdTrack reporting trend has also been downward in recent years, markedly so in 2020.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Mallard in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Non-breeding: a couple of better years following a decline in the WeBS index for Wales by *c.*70% in the two decades from 1989/90. A similar, equally modest, improvement in the index is evident in Northern Ireland, whereas the trend in Scotland and England continues downward.

At nine, the number of sites in the table below that held >=200 was the lowest ever and barely half the 2005-19 mean.

| *>=200 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay/Hamadryad | 72 | 35 | 49 | 48 | 31 | 93 | 233 | 125 | 87 | 74 | 75 | 103 |
| Caerphilly Castle | 46 | 34 | 46 | 24 | | 107 | 209 | 123 | 116 | 66 | 48 | 53 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 399 | 294 | 203 | 162 | 227 | 272 | 263 | 480 | 338 | 309 | 326 | 88 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 278 | 186 | 144 | | | 83 | 130 | | 236 | 191 | 346 | 324 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llyn Tegid | 41 | 20 | 16 | | | | | | 82 | 214 | 117 | 186 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 48 | 37 | 16 | | | | 130 | 230 | 178 | 120 | 135 | 166 |
| Traeth Lafan | 229 | 209 | 184 | 2 | 2 | | *c.*50 | 34 | 176 | 162 | 151 | 187 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Cors Ddyga | 116 | 88 | 57 | | | | | | 206 | 178 | 114 | 68 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oakenholt Marsh/CQNR | 100 | 95 | 23 | | | | | 1380 | 160 | 160 | 122 | 42 |

Other counts: GWENT: 1269 recorded on 200km of river surveyed in Nov. and 1234 in Dec. (Tyler and Clarke 2021).

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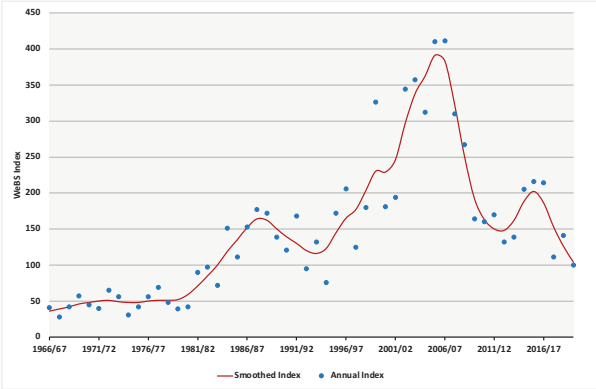
**PINTAIL** *Anas acuta* HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

*Locally abundant winter visitor to some counties. Red WeBS alert: -52% medium term, the highest of any UK country, but +42% in long-term. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 586 | 528 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 2% |

Breeding season: CAERNARFON: injured bird at Morfa Madryn on 20 July.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Pintail in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Non-breeding: the smoothed Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales is at its lowest since 1983/84, 73% below the peak in 2005/06. On the most important site, the Dee estuary, the peak count in 2019/20 was 62% lower than in the previous year, at just over 3000 birds, and the reduction on the Welsh side was marginally greater. It is many years since no site in Wales recorded 1000 birds or more.

Pintail (Jonathan Bull)

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >80 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=80 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rumney Great Wharf | 50 | 45 | 65 | | | | | 9 | | 9 | 180 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 350 | 164 | | | | | | | 118 | 35 | 132 |
| Weobley | | | | | | | | 359 | 741 | 250 | 44 |
| Dalton's Pt | 387 | 164 | | | | | | 4 | | 50 | 57 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 360 | 400 | 4 | 2 | | | | 18 | 132 | 139 | 274 |
| Gwendraeth estuary | | 1 | | | | | | 118 | 48 | 21 | 75 |
| CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dyfi estuary | 229 | | | | | | | | | 138 | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary | 61 | 106 | 0 | | | | 0 | 22 | 3 | 142 | 0 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 140 | 130 | | | | | | 80 | 170 | 120 | 210 |
| Traeth Lafan | 158 | 73 | | | | | | 78 | 109 | 51 | 64 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Malltraeth Cob & estuary | 330 | 193 | | | | | | 10 | 165 | 349 | 20 |
| Traeth Melynog | 167 | 28 | 0 | | | | | 8 | 75 | 274 | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 91 | 35 | 0 | | | | | 1 | 23 | 64 | 46 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dee estuary | 260 | 70 | 18 | | | | 3 | 170 | 344 | 200 | 450 |

Counts >=80 elsewhere: GOWER: 187 at Llanrhidian on 15 Oct. and 270 here on 22 Nov.; 81 at Salthouse Pt on 19 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*150 at Lliedi rivermouth on 27 Sept.; DENBIGH: 80 on the Dee valley floods at Holt on 11 Feb.

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**TEAL** *Anas crecca* CORHWYADEN

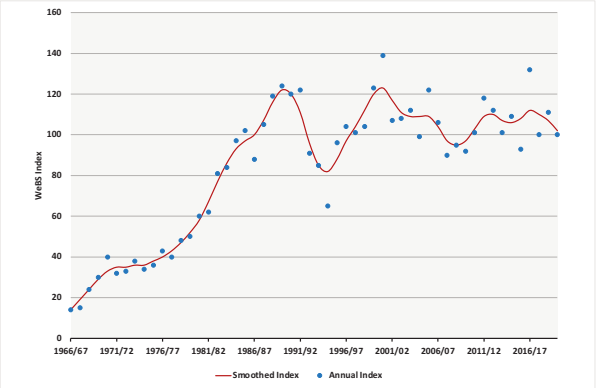
*Small numbers (60-250 pairs) breed in the uplands, otherwise a widespread and fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **3240** | **2581** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **13%** | **11%** |

Breeding season records were sparse, and none was proven, most likely owing to travel restrictions, since most are found in remote upland bogs. Those in suitable habitat were: CEREDIGION: pair at RSPB Ynys-hir; MEIRIONNYDD: pair at each of Llyn Tegid and Llyn y Garn in May; four on Llyn Trawsfynydd on 25 June; ANGLESEY: pair at RSPB Valley Wetlands; FLINT: pair in Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Non-breeding: Teal numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey have been fairly stable since the late 1980s, but an amber WeBS alert has been issued for the Dee estuary (-25%) over the long-term. The number of sites holding >=300, in the table below, was 40% below the 2010-19 average.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Teal in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




| *>=300 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 1866 | 1630 | 959 | | | 1 | | | 155 | 659 | 1122 | 3105 |
| CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dyfi estuary | 532 | 356 | 95 | | | | | | | 300 | 287 | 401 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary | 131 | 249 | 300 | | | | | | 101 | 217 | 17 | 60 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 294 | 319 | 27 | | | | | 38 | 160 | 160 | 280 | 192 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 216 | 61 | 41 | | | | | | 147 | 496 | 106 | 254 |
| RSPB Cors Ddyga | 312 | 176 | 108 | | | | | 135 | 420 | 390 | 320 | 180 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clwyd estuary | 60 | 30 | 13 | 6 | | | 2 | 45 | 92 | 329 | 305 | 385 |
| Dee estuary | 750 | 200 | 150 | | | | 1 | 135 | 1000 | 1500 | 1170 | 1000 |

Counts >=300 elsewhere: CEREDIGION: 500 at Cors Caron in Dec.

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**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** *Anas carolinensis* CORHWYADEN ASGELLWERDD
*Scarce visitor from North America; WBRC: 46 previous records.*

CAERNARFON: male at Abersoch on 22-23 Feb.

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**RED-CRESTED POCHARD** *Netta rufina* HWYADEN GRIBGOCH
*Naturalised species, breeding locally in England (Category C), but scarce in Wales.*

Four records in a year is the highest Welsh total since 2013. GWENT: one at Ponthir Res. on 23 April; E.GLAMORGAN: female on Kenfig Pool on 26 April; GOWER: female at Gnoll Park ponds on 2-21 Jan. and 31 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: male at Talley from 28 Jan. to 14 Feb. was the fourth county record, and the first since 2010.

**POCHARD** *Aythya ferina* HWYADEN BENGOCH

*A declining winter visitor, chiefly to southern coastal counties, and passage migrant. Red WeBS alert: -68% short term, -76% medium and -89% long term, the highest of any UK country. Rare breeder (RBBP: seven confirmed pairs, nine probable/possible pairs in 2019). Wales Red-listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 745 | 440 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 3% | 2% |

Breeding: two confirmed pairs is the lowest total since 2008 but there were no surveys on Anglesey wetlands managed by the RSPB, which hold the bulk of the Welsh population, owing to COVID-19. CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred at Penclacwydd; ANGLESEY: two males at Llyn Llywenan on 7 May.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Pochard in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**

Non-breeding: Pochard numbers have fallen by 77% since 1995/96, though seem to have stabilised over the last few years. Western counties, in particular, now record very few: in 2020, there were six in PEMBROKE, three in CEREDIGION, six in MONTGOMERY, three in MEIRIONNYDD and none in CAERNARFON. However, flock size in some eastern counties were also small: max. six at Llangorse Lake, BRECON, max. eight at RSPB Conwy, DENBIGH, and a total of five in FLINT. Against this backdrop, the 611 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. (of which 95% were male) in December was the highest count for that month in GOWER since 1980.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=20 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=20 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newport Wetlands | 24 | 6 | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay | 28 | 12 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Cosmeston Lakes CP | 21 | 26 | 7 | | | | | | | 7 | 10 | 12 |
| Kenfig Pool | | 2 | 53 | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| Llanishen/Lisvane Reservoirs | 18 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 34 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir | 150 | 108 | nc | nc | nc | 1 | 1 | 20 | 30 | 50 | 101 | 611 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 23 | 27 | 45 | 29 | | | | 7 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Cefni Reservoir | 6 | 7 | 2 | | | | | 14 | 27 | | | 6 |

**FERRUGINOUS DUCK** *Aythya nyroca* HWYADEN LYGADWEN

*Very rare visitor, usually in winter, from southeast Europe. BBRC: 47 records, including the returning bird below.*

BRECON: male at Llangorse Lake from 6 Oct. 2019 to 1 Jan. 2020.

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**RING-NECKED DUCK** *Aythya collaris* HWYADEN DORCHOG

*Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 52 previous records.*

E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY female at Cardiff Bay on 14 Oct., subsequently at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 18 Oct. and then at both sites into 2021; 1CY male at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 17 Oct. and there again and at Cardiff Bay from 25 Oct. to 7 Nov., often with the 1CY female; female/immature at Rhaslas Pond on 19 Nov, then at Bute Town Pond on 26-27 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: female at Talley from 1 Dec. until end of year; two males at Llyn Pencarreg on 3 Dec. and one here on 10th. One or both males seen with the female at Talley on several dates into 2021; PEMBROKE: immature male at Marloes Mere from 27 Dec. 2019 to 5 Jan. and again on 5 Feb. and then at St Brides on 8-15 Feb.; CEREDIGION: immature male (from 2019) at Llyn Rhosgoch on 3 Jan., then at Llyn Blaenmelidwr and Llyn Pendam to 22 March; MEIRIONNYDD: male returned to Llyn Caer-Euni from 23 Aug. to 28 Oct., having been seen in the county in the two previous autumns and in Denbighshire in summer 2019.

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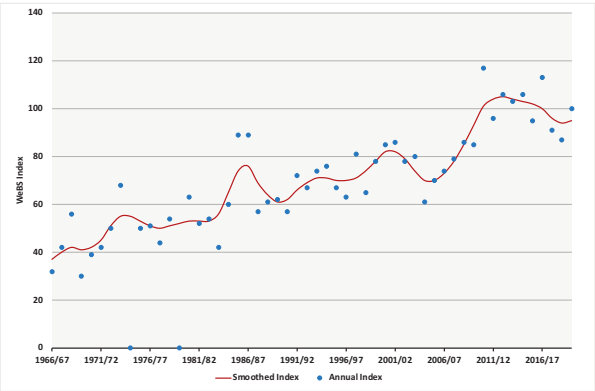
**TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula* HWYADEN GOPOG

*Uncommon breeding species (765-1350 pairs). Fairly common winter visitor. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2912 | 2098 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 12% | 10% |

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: bred at seven sites, probably/possibly at 11; GOWER: six pairs at four sites; CARMARTHEN: seven pairs bred at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: bred at five sites; CAERNARFON: pair probably bred at Treborth pond; ANGLESEY: bred at Cors Erddreiniog and RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: bred on Llyn Brân; FLINT: bred at Nannerch fish pond and Rhyl Brickfield Pond; eight of 25 pairs at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands were in the Welsh part of the reserve.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Tufted Duck in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Non-breeding: numbers in Wales have stabilised following a long-term increase, of 24% over the last 25 years. However, the numbers of sites holding >=50 birds, in the table below, was 20% below the 2010-19 average.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=50 birds at least once during the year.

| >=50 birds | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay | 249 | 258 | 127 | 67 | 15 | 39 | 41 | 35 | 135 | 170 | 242 | 308 |
| Cosmeston Lakes CP | 371 | 219 | 61 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 17 | 104 | 154 | 169 |
| Kenfig Pool | 31 | 91 | 150 | 7 | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 20 | 30 | 17 |
| Llanishen/Lisvane Reservoirs | 87 | 99 | 72 | 55 | 18 | 39 | 143 | 134 | 32 | 14 | 40 | 124 |
| Roath Park Lake | 81 | 89 | 65 | | | 2 | 6 | 21 | 36 | 38 | 55 | 178 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir | 160 | 165 | 11 | nc | 42 | 24 | 26 | 80 | 100 | 100 | 105 | 595 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 104 | 105 | 116 | 58 | 42 | 28 | 14 | 5 | 23 | 47 | 60 | 25 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 250 | 220 | 35 | 28 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 220 | 436 | 304 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llyn Trawsfynydd | | | | | | 24 | 25 | | 50 | | 68 | 85 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cefni Reservoir | 166 | 185 | 183 | | | | | 54 | 25 | | | 146 |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 39 | 41 | 89 | 51 | | | | 54 | 13 | 10 | 18 | 44 |
| Llyn Pen-y-parc | 55 | 39 | 17 | | | | | | 6 | 11 | 6 | 7 |
| Llyn Llywenan | 20 | 50 | 30 | | | | | | | | | |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanmer Mere | 56 | 53 | 54 | | | | 2 | | 2 | 10 | | 28 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shotton Paper Mill | 26 | 53 | 92 | | | | 10 | 14 | 7 | | | |

Counts =>50 elsewhere: FLINT: 127 at Cop Hole, Shotwick, on 20 Sept.

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**SCAUP** *Aythya marila* HWYADEN BENDDU

*Localised winter visitor, declining since the mid 1990s. Red WeBS alert: -54% long term. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **298** | **275** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

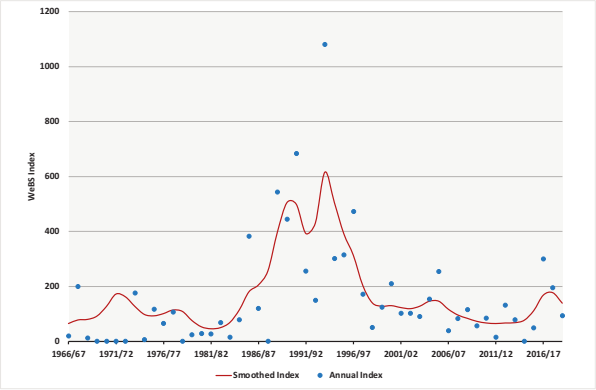
Non-breeding: numbers in Wales have fallen back to their pre-1984 levels, although counts vary greatly between winters. There were 44 in Wales in February, of which

Minimum number in each county.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 2 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| GOWER | 10 | 8 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| CARMARTHEN | 8 | 5 | 5 | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| PEMBROKE | 4 | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| BRECON | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 2 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 7 | 8 |
| elsewhere | 1 | | 5 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| DENBIGH | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| FLINT | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | | |

more than a quarter were, unusually, at Ynys Saltings on the Dyfi, MEIRIONNYDD, whereas there were very few on Beddmanarch-Cymyran (Inland Sea), ANGLESEY, during the first winter period. It was unusual for none to be recorded in CAERNARFON.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Scaup in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**

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**KING EIDER** *Somateria spectabilis* HWYADEN FWYTHBLU'R GOGLEDD

*Extremely rare visitor from the Arctic. BBRC: two previous records.*

PEMBROKE: 1CY male at Little Haven on 10 Nov., then along the coast near St Brides to at least 30 Dec.

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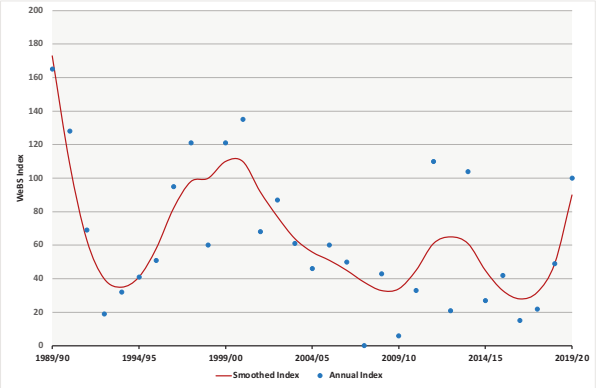
**EIDER** *Somateria mollissima* HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

*Localised winter visitor and scarce breeder (<20 pairs). Wintering numbers fell dramatically in the early 1990s and have fluctuated since. Red WeBS alert: -63% long term and -61% short-term (amber alert -47% medium term). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 197 | 146 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Breeding: CAERNARFON: brood of two in Bangor harbour on 11 July; ANGLESEY: brood of five in Benllech Bay on 27 May; 10 birds between Menai Bridge and Beaumaris in May, but breeding not proven; juveniles seen off Penmon.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Eider in Wales 1989/90-2019/20**




2019 ANGLESEY: nesting attempt failed at Ynys Gaint, Menai Strait, where a pair had nested in 2018.

Non-breeding: in contrast to counts in England and Scotland, the Wetland Bird Survey in Wales increased in 2019/20, by 84% over the previous year but the numbers involved are relatively small. This pulled the smoothed index to its highest level since 2001/02. The five-year mean WeBS count in the Burry Inlet,

GOWER/CARMARTHEN, is only half the level of the late 1970s and that of the Dysynni, MEIRIONNYDD, has halved since the 1990s, whereas numbers at Traeth Lafan, CAERNARFON/ANGLESEY, have increased since 2010/11.

Monthly maxima at the principal sites.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 105 | 74 | 55 | nc | nc | 52 | 12 | 41 | 45 | 40 | 90 | 108 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broadwater and coast | 0 | | | | | | 0 | 9 | 28 | 24 | 0 | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 5 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 6 | | 21 | P | 33 | 17 | 5 | 13 |

Other notable records: GWENT: one at Rhaslas Pond was an unusual inland record; CARMARTHEN: max. 14 at Pwll on 13 May; ANGLESEY: max. 6 off Benllech in each winter period; 12 off Penmon on 20 July including juveniles; 13 over the Inland Sea on 7 Nov. was unusual for the island's west coast.

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**SURF SCOTER** *Melanitta perspicillata* MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

*Scarce trans-Atlantic visitor. WBRC: 74 previous records.*

CARMARTHEN: male off Ragwen Pt on 24 Dec.; CAERNARFON: male at Uwchmynydd on 15 Sept.; DENBIGH: male off Old Colwyn from 2019 to 19 Jan.

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**VELVET SCOTER** *Melanitta fusca* MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

*Localised winter visitor, regular in small numbers to some coastal counties. Occasionally recorded on passage, but rare inland. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **58** | **68** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Decreases around the British coast and the Baltic Sea have led to the international population estimate being revised down by 55%, and the species' listing as Endangered by IUCN/BirdLife International. The Welsh total of 54 was the highest since 2014, primarily as a result of the count of 27-30 in PEMBROKE in January, which was the highest Welsh count since 30 off the Denbighshire coast in February 2010.

All records, singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN: Cefn Padrig on 29 March; PEMBROKE: Broad Haven on 12-21 Jan.; up to 30 at Wiseman's Bridge-Coppet Hall on 19-26 Jan.; three at Broad Haven on 23 Oct. and one on 6 Dec.; two off Wiseman's Bridge on 3 Dec. and one on 11th; CEREDIGION: max. two off Borth from 10 Jan. to 7 Feb.; male at Ynyslas on 19 Sept.; CAERNARFON: four off the Great Orme on 6 Feb. and one here on 28 Oct.; two at Black Rock Sands on 22 Feb. and 20 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Benllech on 4-15 March; DENBIGH: Old Colwyn on 9 and 23 Jan.; Horton's Nose on 12 Jan., 7 Feb. and 13 Dec.; Llanddulas on 1 and 18 Feb.

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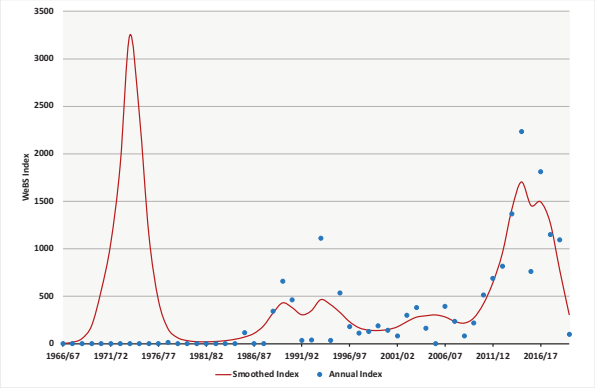
**COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra* MOR-HWYADEN DDU

*Locally abundant coastal visitor, recorded all year round but mainly during the winter. Numbers increasing, although there was an 18% decline in Carmarthen Bay between 2009/10 and 2016/17. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 547 | 510 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 2% |

Very few were recorded on Wetland Bird Surveys in 2019/20, the annual index being the lowest for a decade. However, it should be remembered that land-based counts – especially those on a fixed day each month – vary in the number of birds that are detected.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Common Scoter in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Monthly maxima at the principal sites.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rhossili Bay | 172 | 57 | | | | | | | | 9 | | 371 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cefn Sidan | 1000 | | | | 300 | 600 | 750 | 2750 | | 100 | 500 | 120 |
| Pendine/Telpyn Pt | | | 1500 | 1500 | | | | | | | | 6000 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rhos Pt | 374 | 200+ | 4 | | | 30 | | 4 | 50+ | *c*.50 | 200+ | 6 |
| Great Orme | | 5000 | | | | | | | 60+ | 241 | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 500+ | 74 | 9 | | | | *c*.40 | 3 | 20+ | 42 | 12 | 100 |
| Tremadog Bay | | | | | | | | 3 | 29 | 30+ | | |
| Bardsey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 34 | 22 | 27 | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rhos Pt-Horton's Nose | 15,000 | 1500 | 5000 | 54 | 1 | | 200 | 105 | 2000 | 3060 | 500 | 1000 |

Other notable records: GWENT: 15 at Sudbrook on 15 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 off Lavernock Pt in July; GOWER: 230 west at Port Eynon in one hour on 9 April; 500 at Southgate on 8 Oct.; max. 589 at Oxwich Bay on 25 Dec.; PEMBROKE: up to 250 in St Brides Bay in Jan. and 520 here in Dec.; 974 past Strumble Head in autumn, max. day count 109 on 24 Sept.; CEREDIGION: lower numbers off Borth/Ynyslas than in recent years, max. 80 in Jan. and Oct.; 126 at Mwnt on 26 Aug. and 61 on 25 Sept.; BRECON: no sight records for the first time in several years, but two groups sound-recorded over Bronllys overnight on 27 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: female at Lake Vyrnwy on 8 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: max. 500 off Llandanwg in first winter period and 200 in Sept.; ANGLESEY: max. 1300 off Benllech on 30 Dec.; DENBIGH: inland, one on Llyn Brenig on 17 March; FLINT: 2000 off Gronant on 20 Oct.

**LONG-TAILED DUCK** *Clangula hyemalis* HWYADEN GYNFFONHIR

*Local winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 296 | 275 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

A slight reduction on the total in 2019 and close to the 2005-19 average. There has been a 65% decline in the Baltic Sea (since 1992/93) contributing to the species' global status as Vulnerable. Four males at Neath Rivermouth/Baglan Bay, GOWER, on 22 January was the largest flock of the year. In E.GLAMORGAN, one at Kenfig Pool in March and April was probably the same bird seen on 9 and 15 May. On ANGLESEY, a pair at Cemlyn from 21 Oct. 2019 remained to at least 30 April, and one was there on 27/28 June; one at Llangorse Lake, BRECON, on 23 Nov. was the first county record since 2014.

Number of birds in each county.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 |
| GOWER | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | 1 | | | | | | 3 |
| PEMBROKE | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| CEREDIGION | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| CAERNARFON | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| FLINT | 1 | | | | | | | | |

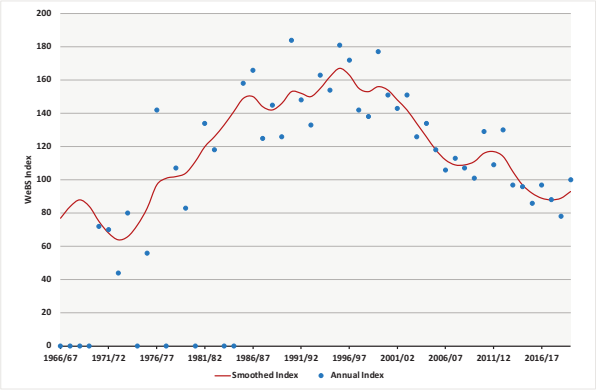
**GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula* HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

*Localised winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber WeBS alerts: -30% short term, -26% medium and -45% long-term. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 776 | 582 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 3% | 2% |

Non-breeding: the highest annual Wetland Bird Survey index for seven years helped to bend the curve a little upwards, but the trend since the mid 1990s has been down, by 43% over the last 25 years.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Goldeneye in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Counts >=10 additional to those in the table: GWENT: 10 at Llantrisant on 8 Jan.; BRECON: 13 at Pentwyn Res. on 27 Jan.

Unseasonal: a late record from the first winter period was one on Llyn Tegid, MEIRIONNYDD, on 9 May.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=10 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=10 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | |
| Ogmore estuary | 11 | 9 | 4 | | | | | 6 | 21 |
| Rhaslas Pond | 13 | 16 | 16 | 6 | | | | 2 | 2 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | |
| Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir | 23 | 8 | 6 | | | | | 3 | 30+ |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | |
| Llys y fran Reservoir | 9 | 7 | | 14 | | | | 5 | 10 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 40 | 62 | 37 | nc | | | | 26 | 43 |
| Talybont Reservoir | 3 | 10 | 8 | nc | | | | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 45 | 31 | 45 | | | | 3 | 19 | 19 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 35 | 35 | 45 | | | 0 | 4 | 6 | 18 |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 14 | 20 | 29 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 8 | 18 |
| Llyn Maelog | 7 | | 18 | | | 0 | 0 | 4 | 14 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Conwy | 4 | 12 | 2 | 2 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Hanmer Mere | 6 | 4 | 15 | | | | | | 2 |

**SMEW** *Mergullus albellus* LLEIAN WEN

*Scarce and declining winter visitor, subject to cold weather influxes from mainland Europe. WBRC: c.363 records during 1967-2019. Wales Amber listed.*

GWENT: male at Llanbadoc from Dec. 2019 to 2 Feb.; CEREDIGION: female-type on the Dyfi est. from Dec. 2019 to 14 Feb., mostly at RSPB Ynys-hir and also in MEIRIONNYDD at Ynys Saltings on 7 Jan. and Glandyfi on 14 Feb.

**GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser* HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

*Breeds on most Welsh rivers, the breeding population is estimated at 685 pairs. Most Goosanders wintering in Wales are thought to be British breeders. Wales Green listed.*

| | **2019** | **2020** |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **1525** | **1366** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **6%** | **5%** |

Around 28 broods were recorded, similar to 2019, including broods in East Glamorgan that were the first in the county since 2013. Coverage of breeding pairs is far from complete, making it difficult to assess the impact of licences issued by Natural Resources Wales to shoot Goosanders on some rivers. A population estimate of non-breeding birds should be generated by a NRW-funded survey in winter 2020/21.

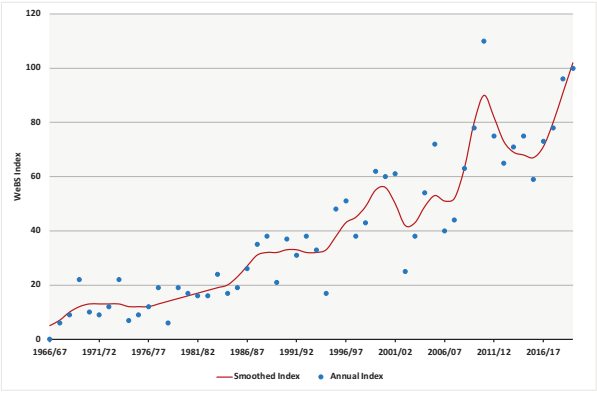
Breeding: GWENT: two broods on R.Usk, at Llanfihangel Gobion and Llanwenarth; E.GLAMORGAN: brood on R.Taff at Cilfynydd on 19 June and of fully grown young at Cardiff Bay on 10 July that had presumably nested upstream on the R.Taff; GOWER: brood on R.Tawe near Pontardawe; CARMARTHEN: bred on R.Tywi, at Llandeilo, Cilsan Bridge and Llangunnor; BRECON: four broods on R.Usk, three on R.Wye and one on R.Crai; RADNOR: brood at Clifford Common; MEIRIONNYDD: two broods on Mawddach est., two on Dwyryd est. and one at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi est.; also bred in the Lower Tryweryn and Canolfan Tryweryn

Goosander (Steve Rosser)

areas; CAERNARFON: pair bred at Llyn Padarn and possibly at several other sites; DENBIGH: nested at Llanfair TH; FLINT: two broods on Clwyd est.

Non-breeding: another year of high numbers, including record WeBS counts at several sites including Llyn Traffwll, the Teifi estuary, Nant Felen Lake and Caerphilly Castle Moat, took the Wetland Bird Survey index to its highest level yet. A survey of 200km of rivers in GWENT found 83 in Nov. and 56 in Dec., around 40% of which were on the R.Usk.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Goosander in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**



Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=20 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=20 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caerphilly Castle | 14 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | 30 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 15 | 26 | 11 | 4 | | | | | | | 10 | 9 |
| Ffordd Fawr | 2 | 4 | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 22 | 1 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 4 | 37+ | 28 | 11 | 16 | 5 | 7 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 34 | 33 | 2 | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 16 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clwyd estuary | 21 | | | | | 25 | 27 | | 27 | | | |

Counts >=20 elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: 24 at Penywern Top Pond, Merthyr Tydfil, on 13 Jan.; max. 26 at Nant Felen Lake, Caerphilly, on 8 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 24 at Llyn Eiddwen in Nov.; RADNOR: 20 on Llandrindod Lake on 4 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: 20 at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi est., on 28 April; 40 at Llyn Tegid on 18 Aug.; 28 on Llyn Trawsfynydd in Dec.; DENBIGH: 20 at Llyn Brenig on 21 July; FLINT: 20 at Hendy Ponds on 6 Oct.

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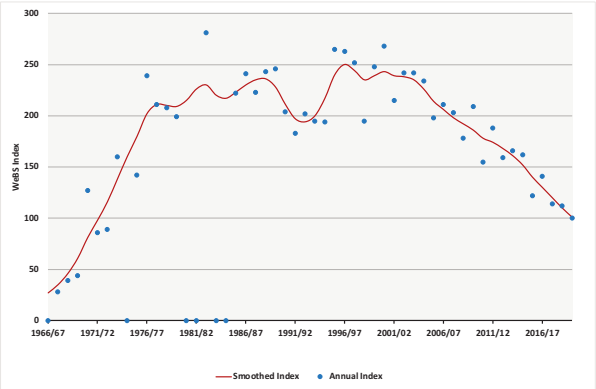
**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** *Mergus serrator* HWYADEN FRONGOCH

*Localised winter visitor, mainly to the North Wales coast. Amber WeBS alerts: -26% short-term, -37% medium and -34% long-term. Small numbers breed, chiefly in the northwest – RBBP: three confirmed pairs and 11 probable/possible in 2019. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **940** | **671** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **4%** | **3%** |

Breeding season (under-recorded): MEIRIONNYDD: possibly nested at Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: no confirmed breeding but pairs displayed at three coastal sites and one was at Cwm Eigiau on 11 July; ANGLESEY: up to six at Cemlyn in May/June but no breeding evidence reported.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Red-breasted Merganser in Wales 1966/67-2019/20**




Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales is at its lowest since 1972/73, and 60% below the 1996/97 peak. An Amber WeBS alert (-31% medium term and -28% long term) has been issued for Traeth Lafan/Conwy Bay SPA, where the peak count in 2019/20 was the lowest since 1991/92. On the Dyfi estuary, where peak counts were upward of 100 birds in the 1980s and '90s, the winter peak was just a dozen.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=20 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=20 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 3 | 4 | 11 | | | | 4 | 3 | 22 | 6 | 7 | 12 |
| Traeth Lafan | 12 | 6 | 14 | | 1 | | | 32 | 23 | 23 | *c*.15 | 19 |
| Penrhyn Bay | 14 | 30 | 29 | | | | | | | | 4 | 8 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 32 | 52 | 31 | | | | | | 26 | 37 | 34 | 52 |

Counts >=20 elsewhere: GOWER: 20 at Wernffrwd on 14 March; CAERNARFON: 20 off Bangor on 18 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 20 at Beaumaris on 20 July; DENBIGH: 40 off Colwyn Bay on 23 Jan.

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**RED GROUSE** *Lagopus lagopus* GRUGIAR GOCH

*Localised resident on heather uplands (835 breeding pairs). Has declined but may have stabilised in recent years. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **132** | **77** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

A return to a typical number of BirdTrack records, following a couple of years of higher totals.

Breeding season counts are individuals unless stated: GWENT: present at Garn yr erw in May; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Waun Wen on 9 Aug.; CEREDIGION: two at Trawsallt on 16 April; three at Ochr-lwyd on 17 July; BRECON: four on Y Gamrhiw on 11 July; four on Mynydd Llangatwg on 7 Aug.; present at Fan Frynych NNR; RADNOR: six on Beacon Hill on 22 July; MONTGOMERY: five pairs and a single male at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; one north of Llangynog on 16 April; MEIRIONNYDD: one at Ddalfa Ddu, near Cadair Berwyn, on 16 April; two females at Rhobell Ganol on 6 July; two at Mynydd Nant Ddu, Arenig, on 26 Aug.; CAERNARFON: three on Tal-y-fan on 19 April; one on Moel-y-ci on 20 May; DENBIGH: five at Cyrn-y-brain on 1 April; three on Esclusham Mountain on 16 July; three at World's End on several dates; 1-2 at four other sites in the Ruabon Moor/Llandegla area; FLINT: two on Penycloddiau on 20 June; four at Cilcain on 31 July; one on Moel Dywyll on 20 Aug.

Non-breeding (max. counts): GWENT: three on Coity Mountain on 12 Jan.; six on Blorenge on 23 Sept.; two at Llanellen on 22 Sept.; one on Sugar Loaf on 29 Dec.; also present above Garnfach on 24 Feb.; CEREDIGION: one at Waun Claerddu on 15 Jan.; up to five at Foel Fawr, RSPB Ynys-hir, on 16-20 Sept.; BRECON: 12-15 at Nant Gyhirchy, Crai, on 12 Nov.; present at Pen Milan in Nov./Dec.; RADNOR: 15 on Beacon Hill on 15 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: seven at Carnedd y Filiast, Cwm Hesgyn, on 19 Oct.; two at Cwm Hesgyn on 10 Nov.; one at Craig Lios, Cwm Hesgyn, on 27 Nov.; CAERNARFON: two on Cefn Du on 15 March with one here on 26th; one below Drum on 30 Oct.; two on Moel Wnion on 22 Dec.; DENBIGH: *c*.50 on Esclusham Mountain on 6 Jan.; 15 at World's End on 31 Jan.; singles at Black Wood-Garth and Moel Famau on 30 Sept.; two on Moel y faen and seven on Esclusham Mountain on 11 Oct.

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**BLACK GROUSE** *Lyrurus tetrix* GRUGIAR DDU

*Localised and declining breeding resident on moorlands of North Wales. There were 328 lekking males in the core area in 2018, the last year of full survey. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **96** | **40** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

There was no co-ordinated lek survey in 2020, so the counts of lekking males below are not comparable to those in previous Welsh Bird Reports. DENBIGH: up to 53 at World's End, Ruabon Moor; nine at Moel Famau; seven

at Coedpoeth; six at Esclusham; FLINT: three at Moel Llys-y-coed.

Additional sites outside the breeding season: MEIRIONNYDD: four at Foel Boeth, Cwm Hesgyn, on 19 Oct.; DENBIGH: singles at Moel Garegog, Bryneglwys and Ceiriog Forest prior to the breeding season; three at Moel Gaer on 31 Dec.

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**GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix* PETRISEN

*Scarce, almost extinct, breeding species. Remaining populations are probably maintained by releases. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 4 | 7 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

All records: GWENT: one south of Llangattock-Vibon-Avel on 15 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: one at Gileston on 3 Oct. and 15 here on 11th; CEREDIGION: two at Cors Caron on 26 April were considered most likely to have been released from captivity; MONTGOMERY: one south of Montgomery on 8 Feb.; one south of Llanwddyn on 15 July; ANGLESEY: two at Traeth Lligwy on 23 March; FLINT: two at Connah's Quay NR on 16-17 Nov.

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**PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus* FFESANT

*Introduced (Category C) and fairly common throughout Wales (165,000 breeding pairs). Many more are released than breed, but few records are included in county reports.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3170 | 2735 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 14% | 13% |

A reduction in the BirdTrack reporting rate, after several years of increase, may reflect that many shoots are reported to have released fewer poults in 2020 because of uncertainties about shooting days owing to COVID-19.

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**QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix* SOFLIAR

*Rare and irregular breeding species, irruptive in some years; scarce passage migrant. RBBP. Wales Amber listed.*

Only 10 records, the joint second-lowest total in the last decade (*cf.* 31-33 in 2019), although the records in Carmarthenshire were the first in that county since 2015. There was an even split between north and south in 2020, and worth noting that records across Britain have been shifting northwards at the rate of 5km/year in the last 30 years (Eaton *et al*. 2021).

All records were singles unless stated: GOWER: Grosmont on 20-22 July; CARMARTHEN: Trelech on 23 June; on a patio in Llanelli on 5 Sept., later released at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: Tan-y-Groes on 27 June; RADNOR: Four Stones in July; ANGLESEY: Llandyfrydog on 16 May and 21 July; Tregele from 31 May to 11 June; Cymyran, near RAF Valley, on 26 June; DENBIGH: Holt on 10 May; FLINT: Cae Rhys Farm, near Caerwys, on 11 June.

**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa* PETRISEN GOESGOCH

*Introduced (Category C) and localised (1400 breeding pairs). Most sightings are of birds released for shooting, and there are few records of breeding.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 155 | 168 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

The county with most records, indicating the highest levels of release, was ANGLESEY, particularly around Llanddyfnan and Dulas. There were counts of 80 in the Tre'r ddol area, CEREDIGION, in the autumn and 100 in the Blaencwm area, BRECON, on 2 Dec.

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**NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus* TROELLWR MAWR

*Localised summer visitor (280 males in 2004, now probably >500), mainly dependent on clearfell areas in forestry plantations. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 68 | 53 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Nightjars are probably under-recorded, as birders tend to visit a small number of traditional sites. Until there is a new national survey, population trends are not accurately known. The earliest record was in E.GLAMORGAN at Garnwen, Maesteg, on 7 May, and the latest was past Bardsey on 7 Oct. (the first island record since 2006) during a seawatch!

Max. per site unless stated: GOWER: seven sites, including a probable nest site at Aberbeeg; E.GLAMORGAN: 19 locations, all singles except six at Llanwonno. Breeding confirmed at Old Caerau colliery; GOWER: eight sites, including six at Ergyd Isaf, five at Foel Fynyddau and three at Mynydd Dinas; CARMARTHEN: Pen-crug-melyn Plantation (four); Blaenduad Plantation (three); Fforest Wood (two); Llanybydder Forest (one); Cynwyl Elfed (one); CEREDIGION: nine sites; BRECON: single males at four sites; MEIRIONNYDD: two at Canol y Coed/Gwaith Powdwr, and singles near Llanelltyd, Pantperthog and Rhiwbryfdir; CAERNARFON: three at Cors Bodgynydd and birds at Clwt-y-bont; records from seven sites where not usually recorded, all singles except three at Clegir on 2 and 9 June and two at Bryncir on 28 May; DENBIGH: Ceiriog Forest (three), Coed Llandegla (12); FLINT: five on Nercwys Mountain.

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**SWIFT** *Apus apus* GWENNOL DDU

*Localised and declining summer visitor (4100 pairs). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1678 | 1936 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 6% | 7% |

Although well recorded on passage and in suitable habitat at the right time of year, breeding records for this largely urban species are generally sparse. The Breeding Bird Survey index to 2019 showed this to be the fastest declining species in Wales (-72% since 1994), so the increase in the BirdTrack reporting rate this year may just reflect that more people were recording from urban areas in 2020. In addition to those listed below, contributors to the RSPB's Swiftmapper project (**swiftmapper.org.uk**) recorded 242 nests at 134 sites. Of these, 67% were a single nest, 18% contained two nests and and the other 15% contained 3-12 nests, including the largest group of 12 nests at a farmhouse north of Abermule, Montgomeryshire. The greatest concentrations, however, were in the South Wales valleys.

Breeding records in county reports: GWENT: family party over Bedwas in July; E.GLAMORGAN: 16 nests at six locations in Cardiff; 18 nests at eight sites in Rhondda Cynon-Taf; seven nests at five locations in the Vale of Glamorgan; eight nests at Kenfig Hill; two nests at Ystrad Mynach; GOWER: bred at eight sites and probably at two others; CARMARTHEN: possibly bred in old school buildings, Llanelli; PEMBROKE: evidence at only one location; CEREDIGION: occupied nests in 15 communities; BRECON: 1-3 pairs at 15 sites;

RADNOR: successful nest at Bridgehill; MONTGOMERY: estimated 30 pairs in Welshpool; MEIRIONNYDD: min. 15-20 pairs estimated to nest in Bala, including several at Coleg y Bala; 10 pairs nested at Minffordd; at least 10 nests at Llanuwchllyn; at least six nests at Trawsfynydd; several nests at Corris Uchaf; one nest in Corwen; CAERNARFON: bred in 11 towns/villages; ANGLESEY: probably bred at Amlwch; DENBIGH: three nests at Rhewl and one at Bron-y-Garth near Oswestry; FLINT: probably bred at Dyserth, possibly at Buckley.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GWENT** | **5 April** | **Bassaleg** | | 15 Sept. | Blorenge |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 12 April | Pencoed West | | 12 Sept. | Cosmeston Lakes CP |
| GOWER | 18 April | Drysiog | | 7 Oct. | Cwmavon |
| CARMARTHEN | 25 April | Burry Port | | 10 Sept. | Kidwelly Marsh |
| PEMBROKE | 22 April | Skokholm | | 26 Aug. | Skomer |
| **CEREDIGION** | 28 April | Llanwnnen | | **21 Oct.** | **Penrhiwnewydd** |
| BRECON | 21 April | Talyllyn | | 31 Aug. | Groesffordd |
| RADNOR | 27 April | Knighton | | 9 Sept. | Llandrindod Wells |
| MONTGOMERY | 20 April | Llandinam | | 12 Aug. | Welshpool |
| MEIRIONNYDD* | 25 April | Cynwyd | | 24 Aug. | Pont Croesor |
| CAERNARFON | 24 April | Bardsey | | 26 Aug. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY* | 23 April | Holyhead | | 1 Sept. | Rhosneigr |
| DENBIGH | 6 April | Nant Meifod | | 27 Aug. | Aberduna NR and Wrexham |
| FLINT | 2 May | St Asaph | | 11 Sept. | Rhyl |

*MEIRIONNYDD: a swift sp. seen briefly at Ynys on 11 Nov. could not be attributed to species, nor could one at Amlwch, ANGLESEY, that roosted in the Octel factory on 10 Nov. but was not seen again.

The first in Gwent was one day earlier than the previous earliest this century, in 2015, and the first in Denbighshire was five days earlier than the previous earliest, in 2018. The latest in Gower was five days later than the previous latest this century, in 2003.

Winter: first such record in PEMBROKE, at Marloes Mere on 1 Jan.

Counts >=80: E.GLAMORGAN: 340 at Lavernock Pt on 25 June; 100 over Porthcawl on 26 July; GOWER: 86+ at Wernffrwd on 5 July; CARMARTHEN: *c.*100 at Sandy WP on 18 May; 175 at Penclacwydd on 6 Aug.; BRECON: 80 over Llangorse Lake on 13 May; MEIRIONNYDD: at least 120 at Ynys Saltings, Dyfi est., on 4 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 96 on Bardsey on 24 June; 100+ feeding on flying ants over Llanberis on 30 July.

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**CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus* COG

*Localised summer visitor (1900 breeding 'pairs') but now scarce in lowlands except on passage. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **585** | **451** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **2%** | **2%** |

Territorial males: GWENT: records from 30 sites, but may include passage birds; E.GLAMORGAN: at five sites, including 3-4 males at Mynydd Eglwysilan, and calling birds at an additional 40; GOWER: at three sites (one seen laying an egg), and calling birds at an additional 56 sites; CARMARTHEN: 10 sites; PEMBROKE: three locations; CEREDIGION: at 34 sites, a welcome increase on 14 in 2019, and confirmed at two; BRECON: two juveniles fed by Meadow Pipits; calling birds at 29 other sites, including three pairs; MEIRIONNYDD:

records from 15 sites, all single males except three at Cwm Cywarch on 13 May and two at Harlech on 26 April; CAERNARFON: called at 33 sites and bred on Bardsey, the young reared by Meadow Pipits; ANGLESEY: one at Amlwch on 10-12 June; juvenile at Bodafon Mountain on 3-10 Aug. may have hatched locally; DENBIGH: 13 sites, mostly singles except three at Rhos-y-brithdir, two at Moel Arthur and two at Cae Llwyd Res.; FLINT: three sites.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 12 April | Llanishen | | 16 Aug. | West Pill |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 12 April | Clydach Vale | | 15 Aug. | Sker Point |
| **GOWER** | 14 April | Gorseinon | | **1 Nov.** | **Swansea** |
| CARMARTHEN | 12 April | Gwynfe | | 15 Aug. | Ginst Point |
| PEMBROKE | 22 April | Landshipping-Coedcanlas | | 19 July | Skokholm |
| **CEREDIGION** | **10 April** | **Swyddffynnon & Coed Simdde Llwyd** | | 2 Aug. | Tŷ Gwyn pool |
| **BRECON** | **10 April** | **Epynt** | | 15 July | Crai Reservoir |
| RADNOR | 14 April | Llowes | | 20 Aug. | Painscastle |
| MONTGOMERY | 11 April | Llwynderw, near Llanidloes | | no late season records | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 12 April | near R.Tryweryn | | 14 June | Vivod Mountain |
| CAERNARFON | 11 April | Abergwyngregyn | | 29 June | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 15 April | near Cemlyn | | 23 Aug. | Hen Borth |
| **DENBIGH** | **10 April** | **Rhos-y-brithdir** | | 8 Sept. | Bylchau |
| FLINT | 25 April | Cilcain | | 17 Aug. | Connah's Quay NR |

The last of the year in Denbighshire matches the latest record this century, in 2008 and that in Flintshire was one day later than the previous latest, in 2015. In Gower, a remarkable record of a juvenile photographed in the village of Lunnon Square on the Gower peninsula, was 83 days later than the previous latest this century, in 2007. There are only a handful of Welsh records of Cuckoo in November and three during the winter in the 20th century.

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**FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia* COLOMEN DDOF

*Fairly common resident (41,000 breeding pairs) in towns and on some sea cliffs (Category C). Greatly under-recorded. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **3226** | **2754** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **15%** | **14%** |

The fall in BirdTrack records is slightly surprising given that more people were recording birds in towns relative to other habitats in 2020. It may reflect that fewer were visiting the larger conurbations to work or shop, but the origins of Feral Pigeons from racing stock was noted in the *Cambrian Bird Report*: during the COVID-19 lockdowns, there were very few records in spring and over the May bank holiday, but as soon as lockdown ended in July, the number of records increased immediately as pigeon fanciers released birds into the wild.

Counts >=100: GWENT: 100+ at Caldicot Castle on 7 Jan.; 150 in Monmouth on 12 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 153 at R.Taff between Taff embankment and Coopers Field on 13 Jan.; up to 110 in Roath Park, Cardiff, in Jan.-March; 100 at Bute Park on 22 Feb.; 100 at Caegarw on 11 March; 100 at Aberthaw Power Station on 7 Oct.; 105 at Knap lake, Barry, in Oct.; GOWER: several counts >=100 in Brynmill Park, max. 163 on 22 Aug.; max. 120 in Port Talbot; PEMBROKE: 99 on the Teifi est. on 1 Nov.; BRECON: 130 in Brecon throughout the year; FLINT: 145 on Clwyd est. on 2 Aug. and 104 here on 11 Dec.

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas* COLOMEN WYLLT

*Fairly common resident (21,500 territories), mostly in lowland areas. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 901 | 1107 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 4% | 5% |

A noticeable uptick in the BirdTrack reporting rate for this species, from 3.5% of lists in 2019 to 4.9% in 2020. There were also some large flocks in CEREDIGION and BRECON.

Counts >=15: GWENT: 200 near Wentlooge on 30 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 25 near Cowbridge on 11 Jan.; 16 at Lavernock Pt on 22 Oct.; 16 at Dunraven on 9 Nov.; GOWER: 24 at Whiteford on 8 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 23 at Bicton on 1 Feb.; 15 at Haverfordwest on 29 Oct.; CEREDIGION: 216 near Tregaron on 15 Feb.; 330 at Llanio on 21 Feb.; 250 at Coed Y Foel, Llandysul, on 5 Dec.; BRECON: 32 at Pennorth on 4 Jan., a flock remaining here once spring cereal was sown, until 1 May; 21 at Libanus on 13 April; 27 at Allt-yr-esgair on 3 July, of which half were juveniles; 200 on oil seed rape stubble near Groesffordd in Sept. gradually diminished to 30 in Dec.; DENBIGH: *c*.30 at Holt on 5 May; 30+ at Bettisfield on 30 Dec.; FLINT: at least 30 regularly at Connah's Quay NR in first winter period, peaking at 110 on 1 Feb., and 35 here on 2 Sept.; 20 at Hendy Ponds on 12 July.

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**WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus* YSGUTHAN

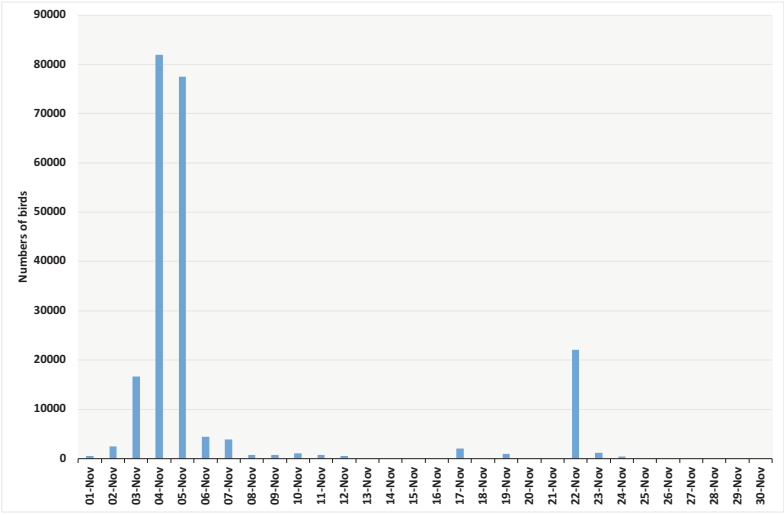
*Abundant breeding species (295,000 pairs), passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 12060 | 12372 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 54% | 62% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been relatively flat in the last decade, as was the BirdTrack reporting rate until a marked increase in 2020.

Non-breeding: there were high counts across southeast Wales in the first week of November, the largest being over Leckwith, E.GLAMORGAN on 6 Nov., but flocks this year were seen over a larger front than usual, including in CARMARTHEN and along the Dyfi estuary by the 6th and Bangor, CAERNARFON, by the 7th. There were further movements on 22 November, in east GWENT and Cardiff.

Woodpigeon: collated counts from all counties >=300 birds.




Large flocks or counts >=300: GWENT: *c*.1500 over Llandegfedd Res. on 3 Nov.; 315 over Mynydd Llangatwg

and 350 down the Monnow Valley near Osbaston on 4 Nov.; 17,470 over Sudbrook on 5 Nov.; *c.*1000 over Llandegfedd Res. on 6 Nov.; 2050 over Peterstone Wentlooge on 17 Nov.; *c.*1000 over Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 19 Nov.; 21,238 over Portskewett on 22 Nov.; 300 over Osbaston on 23 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 523 over Whitchurch on 1 Nov.; 1500+ over Cardiff Bay and 1000+ over Sully on 2 Nov.; 2000 over Cardiff Bay Wetland, 1200 over Cosmeston Lakes CP and 12,000 over Rumney Great Wharf on 3 Nov.; 45,000 SSW over Leckwith, 577 over Whitchurch and 33,000 over Rumney Great Wharf on 4 Nov.; 833 over Kenfig NNR, 22,200 over Leckwith, 30,000 SW over Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 5 Nov.; 400+ over Llanishen Res. on 6 Nov.; 1300+ over Lavernock Pt on 7 Nov. and 350 here on 10th; 790 over Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 22 Nov.; 535 over Kenfig NNR on 23 Nov.; GOWER: *c.*2340 over Port Talbot (and 390+ over Gnoll Park) on 4 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*400 southeast over Llyn Llech Owain on 25 Nov.; *c.*300 at Caedelyn Farm, Llanedi, on 5 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 450 at Boncath on 6 Nov.; up to 400 at Trefeiddan on 23 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 2000 north over Furnace in one hour on 6 Nov. and a prolonged passage north of large flocks at RSPB Ynys-hir in the same period; BRECON: 500 fed on oilseed rape stubble near Groesffordd on 14 Aug.; 400 fed on acorns at Libanus on 4 Nov.; 7000 west over Llanhamlach in one hour on 5 Nov.; several flocks of up to 700 west over the Usk valley between Defynnog and Bwlch during 6-10 Nov. and over Llanwrthwl on 10-11th; RADNOR: 500 west over Maes y Geidfa on 12 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 600+ north over Glandyfi on 6 Nov. (and several smaller flocks the same day); CAERNARFON: 1573 over Bangor on 7 Nov.; DENBIGH: 426 at Lleweni watermeadows on 18 Aug.

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**TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur* TURTUR

*Extinct as a breeding species following a long decline in the late 20th century; now a scarce passage migrant, mainly in spring. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 22 | 16 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

A total of 19, identical to the previous year, but still historically low. The CEREDIGION record, on 22 November, was unusually late.

All single birds unless stated: GWENT: Llandenny on 8 May; E.GLAMORGAN: in a Sully garden from 26 June to 2 July; Lavernock Pt on 21 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Abergwili on 7 May; PEMBROKE: two at Ty Dyrnu, Fishguard, on 13 April; Marloes on 23 April; Cwmwdig on 28 April; Skokholm on 9 May and 26-28 May; Pencarn campsite on 12 Sept.; Porth Clais on 19 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Comins Coch on 22 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: in a garden in Bala on 25 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 29 May; ANGLESEY: Wylfa Head on 30 May; Llanfairynghornwy on 1 Sept., possibly same at Hen Borth on 12 and 16 Sept.; Capel Coch on 2 Oct.

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**COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto* TURTUR DORCHOG

*Fairly common resident (87,000 breeding pairs), having first appeared in Wales in 1959. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3562 | 3708 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 16% | 18% |

Counts >=25: E.GLAMORGAN: 27 at Penywaun, Aberdare, on 17 Nov.; GOWER: 49 at Taibach Memorial Park, Port Talbot, on 4 Nov.; 25 at Tir Canol, Swansea, on 11 Dec.; FLINT: at least 45 around Ynys Farm, Rhuddlan, from Aug. to Dec., peaking at 75 on 10 Sept.; 50 at Old Warren Farm, Broughton, on 10 Sept. In MONTGOMERY, recorded on 83% (summer) and 65% (winter) of MWT garden surveys.

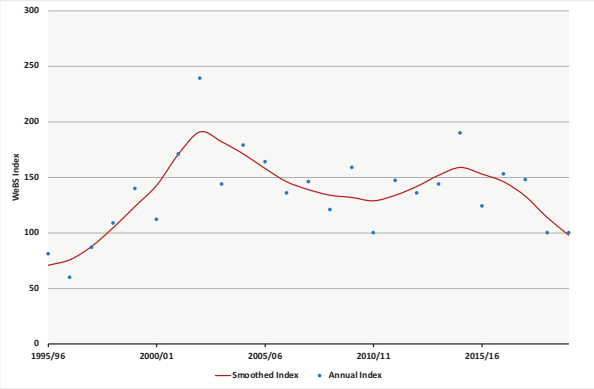
**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus* RHEGEN Y DWR

*Scarce breeder (215 territories), more commonly recorded as a passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 629 | 577 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 3% |

Breeding season (April-July) presence unless more certain evidence provided: E.GLAMORGAN: Tirfounder Fields, Cardiff Bay, Glamorgan Canal/Forest Farm and Kenfig saltmarsh; GOWER: Oxwich Marsh and Baglan Burrows; CARMARTHEN: three pairs at Penclacwydd; calling birds at Pwll Lagoon, Ashpits Pond, Ffrwd Fen and Banc y Lord; PEMBROKE: Teifi Marshes and Skomer; CEREDIGION: bred at Cors Caron (juvenile seen on 19 July); present at Aberleri and Cors Fochno; BRECON: at least two family groups at Llangorse Lake; MEIRIONNYDD: possibly bred at Pennal; ANGLESEY: present at RSPB Valley Wetlands; FLINT: bred at Gronant; present at Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Water Rail in Wales 1995/96-2019/20**




Non-breeding: although the Wetland Bird Survey does not census Water Rails so well as song-playback surveys, it has suggested stability in the population over the last 20 years, but the two most recent years have been poor by comparison.

Maximum autumn and winter concentrations.

| *>=5 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd* | 6 | 6 | 15 | 3 | 3 | | | | 1 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | | | | 0 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| RSPB Cors Ddyga | 4 | 0 | 3 | | | | | | 0 | 5 | 6 | 0 |

* surveyed using playback response.

Other counts of 5+ birds: GWENT: five at Nash on 4 Jan.; 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 20-21 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: five at Tirfounder Fields on 2 Jan. and 8 Aug.; six at Cardiff Bay Wetland on 11 Jan. and 16 Nov., and eight here on 8 Dec.; six at Kenfig NNR on 16 March; six at Cors Crychydd Reen on 29 Nov.; PEMBROKE: six at Castlemartin Corse on 16 Oct., 16 and 27 Nov.; six on Skokholm on 11 Oct.; six at Freshwater East Marsh on 1 Dec.; five at Llangloffan on 6 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 10 at Teifi Marshes on 16 Dec.; BRECON: five at Llangorse Lake in Nov.; ANGLESEY: 10 around edge of Red Wharf Bay on 27 Nov.; DENBIGH: 11 at RSPB Conwy in Jan. and seven at an adjacent site*; FLINT: five at Gronant on 29 Sept.

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**CORNCRAKE** *Crex crex* RHEGEN YR YD

*Former breeder (last probably in 1996). Passage migrant. WBRC: 167 records since 1967.*

PEMBROKE: Abercastle on 11 Aug.

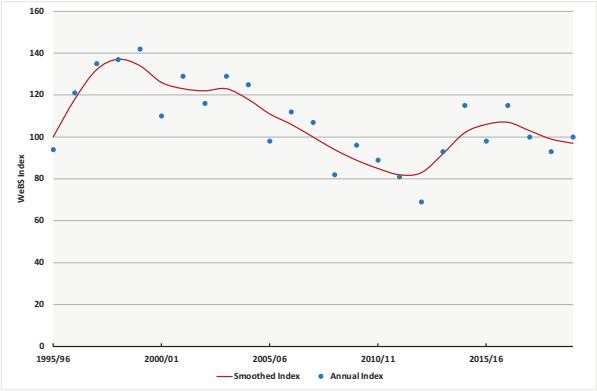
**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus* IAR DDWR

*Fairly common breeding resident (14,500 territories) and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 4576 | 3680 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 20% | 18% |

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been more stable over recent years, following a decline during the 15 years to 2012/13, but the index remains 29% below its peak.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Moorhen in Wales 1995/96-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=40 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=40 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 49 | 4 | 45 | 15 | 11 | 22 | 11 | 14 | 50 | 44 | 39 | 40 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pembroke Mill Ponds | 30 | 54 | 30 | | | | | | 40 | 42 | 51 | 43 |

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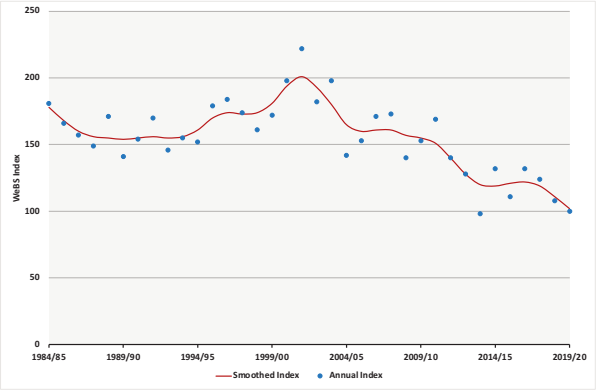
**COOT** *Fulica atra* CWTIAR

*Localised breeding resident (1600 pairs) and winter visitor, widespread but declining in many areas. Amber WeBS alert: -27% medium term. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3739 | 3106 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 16% | 15% |

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has declined by 49% since 2001/02 and shows no sign of levelling off. The *Cambrian Bird Report* noted that in CAERNARFON, Coot has become scarce with only one breeding site (Parc Menai) and records from only three other sites, involving a total of four birds. It was described as a very poor year in MEIRIONNYDD, with a maximum of three birds at each of two sites.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Coot in Wales 1984/85-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=100 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=100 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay | 224 | 156 | 70 | 71 | 83 | 107 | 293 | 439 | 548 | 411 | 481 | 365 |
| Roath Park Lake | 100 | 76 | 40 | | 26 | 32 | 163 | 157 | 263 | 259 | 200 | 215 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir | 12 | 6 | nc | nc | nc | 2 | 3 | 40 | *c*.50 | 100+ | 82+ | 120+ |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 515 | 278 | 100 | 40 | 35 | 60 | 95 | 148 | 215 | 293 | 493 | 460 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cefni Reservoir | 430 | | | | | | | | | | | 64 |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 34 | 42 | 33 | 20 | | | | 140 | 38 | 21 | 71 | 45 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shotton Lagoons | 20 | 19 | 17 | | | | 28 | 107 | 61 | | | |
| Connah's Quay NR | 12 | 14 | 14 | | | | | 79 | 121 | 139 | 167 | 76 |

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**CRANE** *Grus grus* GARAN

*Rare visitor from Europe. WBRC: 52 previous records (excluding known reintroduced birds). RBBP: one breeding pair, another non-breeding pair in 2017.*

Breeding season: no sign of any in the Gwent Levels, and only one female in East Glamorgan, but COVID-19 restrictions limited access. E.GLAMORGAN: the colour-ringed female of the pair (originating from the Great Crane Project in Somerset) that unsuccessfully attempted to breed in 2018 was seen without a mate at the same site on 12 May.

Presumed vagrant: CEREDIGION: unringed bird at Dihewyd on 6 April.

Two over Brynteg and then RSPB South Stack, ANGLESEY, on 27 March were presumed, in absence of definitive evidence that they were unringed, to originate from Somerset.

**LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* GWYACH FACH

*Localised breeder (240-640 pairs), scarce in land-locked counties. Winter visitor. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **3004** | **2434** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **12%** | **11%** |

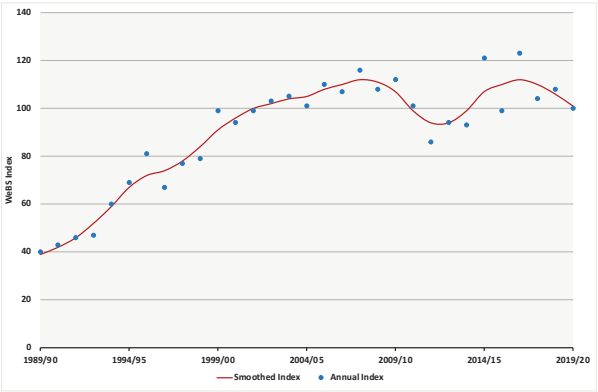
Breeding season: GWENT: bred at three sites; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 pairs at 11 sites; GOWER: five pairs at four sites; CARMARTHEN: 14 pairs bred at four sites; PEMBROKE: evidence at three sites; CEREDIGION: evidence at seven sites; BRECON: present at six sites; MONTGOMERY: possibly bred at Lymore Upper Pool; MEIRIONNYDD: territorial pair at Talyllyn; DENBIGH: bred at six sites, including three pairs in a flooded quarry in Llanddulas; FLINT: bred on small pond at Marsh Tracks cycling track and at Gronant.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has stabilised this century, following a significant increase during the 1990s.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=10 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=10 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abercwmboi Lake | 4 | 5 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 6 | 11 | 12 |
| Cardiff Bay & R.Taff | 39 | 36 | 18 | | | 2 | 1 | 11 | 30 | 22 | 25 | 36 |
| Cors Crychydd Reen | 1 | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | | 2 | | 11 | 3 | 6 |
| Llanishen/Lisvane Reservoirs | 13 | 11 | 16 | 10 | 8 | 15 | 21 | 28 | 38 | 26 | 27 | 31 |
| Ogmore estuary | 11 | 10 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 16 |
| Parc Taf, Bargoed | 12 | 21 | 6 | | 1 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 10 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir | 20 | 12 | nc | nc | nc | 4 | 8 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 23+ | *c.*30 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandy Water Park | 1 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| Gwendraeth estuary | 3 | 5 | | | | | | 17 | 3 | | | 2 |
| Ffos-las | 1 | 2 | 12 | | | 6 | 8 | 3 | | | | 5 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 21 | 20 | 5 | | | | | | 12 | 15 | 15 | 21 |
| Pembroke Millponds | 20 | 16 | 8 | | | | | 15 | 19 | 19 | 21 | 24 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Talybont Reservoir | 21 | 16 | 4 | | | | 2 | 8 | 19 | 15 | 10 | 27 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tal y llyn | 4 | 10 | 2 | | | | | 11 | 17 | 12 | 4 | 14 |
| Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary | 16 | 4 | 0 | | | | | | 0 | 10 | 4 | 4 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 11 | 7 | 2 | | 1 | | | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cefni Reservoir | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | 17 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Conwy | 9 | 6 | 6 | P | P | P | 8 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 7 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Connah's Quay NR | 6 | 5 | 5 | | | | | 6 | 7 | 26 | 18 | 11 |
| Clwyd estuary | 12 | 13 | 4 | | | | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| Ddol Reservoir | 8 | 10 | 3 | | | 1 | | 8 | 12 | 12 | 6 | 6 |

**Wetland Bird Survey: Little Grebe in Wales 1989/90-2019/20**




Counts >=10 elsewhere: GWENT: 15 at Ynys-y-fro Res. on 16 Jan.; 17 recorded on 200km of river surveys in Nov. and 16 in Dec. (Tyler and Clarke 2021); CEREDIGION: up to 12 at Pant pool in Nov. and Dec.; DENBIGH: 10 at Hanmer Mere on 11 Dec.; FLINT: 32 at Shotwick boating lake on 3 Jan.

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**RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena* GWYACH YDDFGOCH

*Scarce winter visitor. WBRC: 410 records since 1950. Wales Amber listed.*

Single birds: GOWER: Penclawdd on 15 Jan.; PEMBROKE: Llys y fran Res. on 15-16 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Pt Lynas on 1 Feb.

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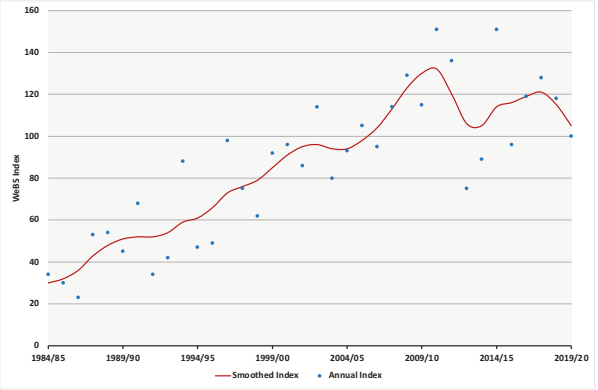
**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus* GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

*Localised breeding species (270 pairs). More coastal in winter and recorded on passage from several counties. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2326 | 1856 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 9% | 8% |

Breeding: GWENT: bred at Parc Bryn Bach and Parc Nant-y-Waun; E.GLAMORGAN: 21 nests at 10 sites, including 10 in Cardiff Bay; GOWER: 2+ pairs at Eglwys Nunydd Res.; CARMARTHEN: four pairs bred at three sites; CEREDIGION: nested at Pond Llywernog; BRECON: three successful broods at Llangorse Lake resulted in the highest productivity for several decades; four pairs at three other sites, but only one was successful; MONTGOMERY: one fledged at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: three pairs at Llyn Trawsfynydd, at least one of which hatched young; three pairs displayed on Llyn Tegid; single pairs on Talyllyn and Llyn Arenig Fawr; ANGLESEY: at least one brood at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: bred at Brymbo Pool, Gresford Flash and Llyn Brenig.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Great Crested Grebe in Wales 1984/85-2019/20**




Non-breeding: the annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales varies but

the smoothed trend has remained reasonably stable for more than a decade. The flock in Baglan Bay, GOWER, in January, was one of the largest counts in Wales but some way short of the Welsh record 536 at Traeth Lafan, Caernarfonshire, in October 1976.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=20 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=20 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay* | 32 | 46 | 73 | 81 | 76 | 62 | 104 | 87 | 61 | 33 | 20 | 28 |
| Llanishen/Lisvane Reservoirs | 2 | 5 | 14 | 18 | 16 | 24 | 36 | 47 | 43 | 14 | 3 | 3 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burry Inlet | 23 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 2 | | 7 | 16 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 12 |
| Baglan Bay | *c*.450 | | 92 | | | | | 8 | 32 | 189 | 446 | 315 |
| Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir | | 30 | | | 25 | 26 | 10 | 20 | 24 | 34 | 12 | *c*.20 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 14 | 10 | 13 | 32 | 24 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 15 | 25 | 12 | 16 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 80+ | 123 | 52 | 1 | 1 | | | 13 | *c*.95 | 55 | 14 | 33 |
| Rhos Point | 9 | 60+ | 15 | | | | | 5 | | 3 | 6 | 3 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Angle Bay | 5 | 4 | | | | | | | 5 | 4 | 8 | 26 |
| Amroth-Wiseman's Bridge | 8 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | 32 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 8 | 12 | 20 | | | | | | 49 | 41 | 19 | 26 |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 5 | 3 | 10 | 17 | | | | 20 | 14 | 15 | 7 | 3 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rhos Pt-Horton's Nose | 25 | 55 | 11 | | | P | | 5 | P | 14 | 8 | 100 |

*some counts include Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve.

Counts >=20 elsewhere: GOWER: 44 off Margam Sands on 8 Nov. and 108 here on 29th; 35 at Blackpill on 5 Nov. and 94 on 26th; CAERNARFON: 28 at Aberdesach on 6 Feb.; ANGLESEY: 46 in Holyhead Bay on 10 Feb.; 20 in Red Wharf Bay on 27 Nov.; 20 off Llanddona on 19 Sept.; 30 off Benllech on 27 Nov., increasing to 45 on 30 Dec.

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**SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG

*Local winter visitor, chiefly to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **275** | **207** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Monthly maxima at the principal sites.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burry Inlet | 5 | | 5 | | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 2 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 2 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1+ | | | | | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 |

Other records, singles unless stated:
First winter period: CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 17 Jan.; Pwll on 20 Feb.; PEMBROKE: Fishguard Harbour on 15 Jan.; two on Gann est. from 22 Jan. to 12 Feb. and one here on 3 March; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: two off Borth y Gest on 22 Feb.; CAERNARFON: two off Rhos Pt on 21 Jan.

Second winter period: GOWER: between Rhossili and Mewslade on 17 Oct.; PEMBROKE: two off Goultrop Roads on 13 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: Borth y Gest on 6 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Foryd on 5 Dec.; Llandudno on 16 and 31 Dec.; FLINT: two off Llanerch-y-Môr on 10 Dec.

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**BLACK-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps nigricollis* GWYACH YDDFDDU

*Local, but declining, winter visitor to coastal waters, occasionally recorded on passage. Formerly bred on Anglesey. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 72 | 73 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Singles unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from 8 Jan. to 11 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: Cardiff Bay on 23 March; two in breeding plumage at Lisvane Res. on 5 June and 3 July but not on intervening dates; GOWER: Wernffrwd on 14 and 22 March; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: Borth-y-gest on 4 Jan.; CAERNARFON: two off the Great Orme on 8 Sept.

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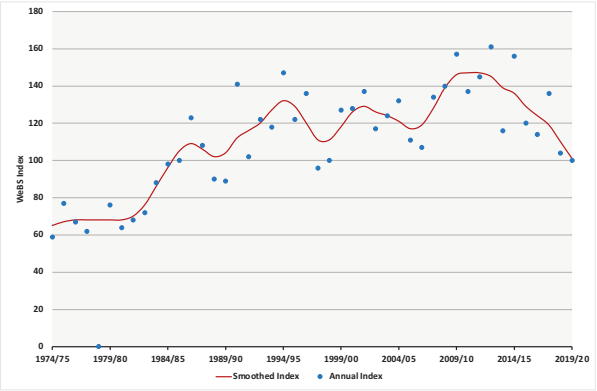
**OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus* PIODEN Y MOR

*Localised breeding species and abundant winter visitor to all coastal areas of Wales. 35% decline on non-estuarine sites (2006/07-2015/16). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 5407 | 4076 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 23% | 18% |

Breeding: GWENT: nested at Gobion and possibly at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Mermaid Quay, Cardiff Bay; PEMBROKE: evidence of breeding at four sites including 58 pairs on Skomer and 18 pairs on Ramsey; CEREDIGION: bred at Llanrhystud, New Quay, near R.Leri and at RSPB Ynys-hir (three pairs); BRECON: bred on Crannog island, Llangorse, probably a second breeding attempt that ultimately failed; probably bred near Pennorth and presumably at Scethrog, though access restrictions prevented confirmation; RADNOR: pair at Glasbury on 3 May; MONTGOMERY: four at Dolydd Hafren on 22 March; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Llandderfel and territorial birds at Llangar Church and the east end of Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: 77 pairs nested on Bardsey; 10% fewer than the 10-year mean but 19% higher than the long-term mean (1953-2020). There were 55 eggs in the 22 nests counted (average clutch size 2.5); ANGLESEY: nested on The Skerries and at a tern colony on the west of the island; brood at RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: pair on west bank of Clwyd est. hatched at least one chick; pair at Llyn Brenig on 14 July; FLINT: pair on east bank of Clwyd est. fledged one chick; three pairs at RSPB Point of Ayr; pair at Gronant fledged one young; two

**Wetland Bird Survey: Oystercatcher in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**



juveniles from different broods ringed at Shotton steelworks in June.

Non-breeding: 2019/20 saw the lowest Wetland Bird Survey value since 1997/98. The index has fallen by 30% in just seven years, driven by declines at all of the top five Welsh sites. An Amber WeBS alert (-28%) has been issued for the Dee estuary SPA, but declines are also evident at Burry Inlet, Carmarthen Bay, Traeth Lafan and Swansea Bay. The BirdTrack reporting rate also fell, by 27%, during 2014-19, and even farther in 2020, although COVID-19 travel restrictions may have influenced this.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=1000 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=1000 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 4200 | 4000 | 200 | | | | 485 | 3640 | 6400 | 9750 | 6500 | 1050 |
| Salthouse Point | 5000 | 850 | 400 | | | | 560 | 1350 | | 2168 | | 2000 |
| R.Neath to Crymlyn | 700 | 300 | 422 | | 4 | 85 | 300 | 850 | 1100 | 400 | 64 | 400 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 270 | 2500 | 33 | | 3 | | 77 | | | | 490 | 25 |
| Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point | 1689 | 479 | 21 | 1000 | | | | | 25 | 730 | 200 | |
| Pembrey Harbour | | | *c.*1000 | | | | | *c.*800 | *c.*130 | | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary | 770 | 1202 | 10 | | | | | | 5 | 15 | 972 | 180 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 380 | 310 | 340 | | | | 290 | 420 | *c.*1500 | 330 | 190 | 590 |
| Traeth Lafan | 4407 | 2116 | 2054 | 19 | 4 | | | 150+ | 1763 | 1697 | 4285 | 3406 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gronant | 1750 | *c.*1300 | *c.*650 | 35 | 52 | 362 | 230+ | 1190 | 1440 | 1800 | 2000 | 477 |
| Point of Ayr | 5000 | | 2500 | *c.*75 | | 4 | 400 | 2500 | 5500 | 8000 | 7500 | 5000 |
| Ffynnongroyw | 2800 | | 450 | | | | 250 | 2500 | 5330 | 2770 | 1200 | 2000 |
| Mostyn | 1550 | 600+ | 1882 | | | | 200 | | 900 | 977 | 2187 | 2190 |
| Flint | 39 | | 53 | 11 | 15 | | 2 | 575 | 1124 | 50 | 68 | 43 |
| RSPB Oakenholt Marsh | 400 | 400 | 70 | | | | | 2000 | 5300 | 1200 | 2200 | 400 |
| White Sands | 4 | | 4 | | | | | | 550 | 1000 | 22000 | 2 |

Other counts >=1000 on the Dee est., FLINT: 1300 at Llannerch-y-môr on 10 Dec. and 2000 at Walwen Marsh on 27 Dec.

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**AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avosetta* CAMBIG

*Breeds in Gwent and increasing in eastern Flintshire, elsewhere a scarce visitor. RBBP: 49 nests at one site in 2019. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **462** | **329** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **2%** | **1%** |

Breeding: GWENT: bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); peak count here was 82 on 21 March; FLINT: max. eight on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 3 May.

Other records, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: four at Rhymney est. on 3 Feb. and two, presumed from this group, at Rumney Great Wharf on 13 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: Ferryside on 9 Jan.; Kidwelly Quay on 5 Feb.; two at Penclacwydd on 10 April; Kidwelly Quay on 15 Nov.; two at Gwendraeth est. on 7 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Hook from 12 Jan. to 17 Feb.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: two on the Teifi est. on 11 June; BRECON: north over Bronllys on 19 June, the fourth county record; ANGLESEY: two at Malltraeth Cob on

9 April; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 1-28 Jan., two at Connah's Quay NR on 13 March and six at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7 Sept.; eight on Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 3 May.

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**LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus* CORNCHWIGLEN

*Rapidly declining breeder – almost extinct in many counties. Also a winter visitor, principally in coastal areas and especially during hard weather to the east. 95% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.*

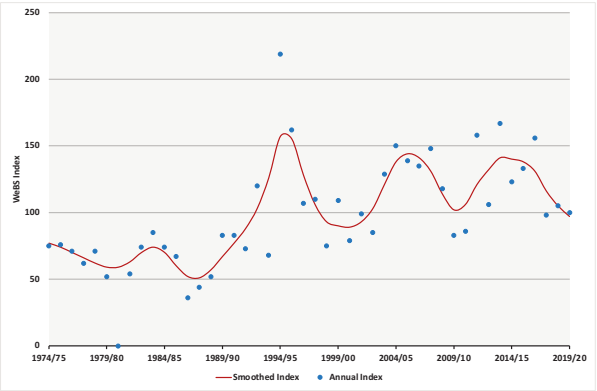
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2691 | 1922 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 11% | 8% |

Breeding: evidence was reported from 29 sites (*cf.* 49 in 2019 and 36 in 2018), but the lower figure is not surprising given COVID-19 travel restrictions. It also resulted in no monitoring of breeding productivity at RSPB reserves, which account for the majority of data provided for the *Welsh Bird Report*, although wardens did visit sites to maintain electric fences designed to deter mammalian predators.

GWENT: at least one nest at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); distraction display noted at Garnlydan Res.; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Kenfig NNR and possibly at Dowlais Top; observed at several other historic breeding locations but no evidence; GOWER: bred at Baglan Bay, Morfa Tip (*c.*4 pairs) and Llandarcy; four territorial pairs at Coed Darcy; pair displayed over farmland between Pitton Cross and Kingshall; two pairs displayed in fenced-off area at Whiteford; CARMARTHEN: six young fledged from 32 nests at Penclacwydd; CEREDIGION: estimated 38 pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir; BRECON: 8-9 pairs around Llangorse:, two at Rushy Field, two at Sailing Club Meadow, 2-3 at Llangasty Pt, one above Elligro and one at Cathedine Fawr; 3-5 pairs at Tŷ Gwyn Farm, Pennorth, where 12+ chicks hatched; 2+ pairs at Llangatwg Common, of which one confirmed; two pairs at Wern Farm, Llanddew; pair at Middlewood Farm, Bwlch; pair at Gelligeloges, Llanddew; MONTGOMERY: four pairs nested in the Montgomeryshire part of the Curlew Country project around Churchstoke; MEIRIONNYDD: possibly bred at Pen y Bryn, Melin y Wig; CAERNARFON: three pairs nested at Ty'n-y-groes, at least one of which hatched a brood of three; DENBIGH: bred successfully at Sydallt; probably bred at Nant-y-ffrith Res., and at Cinders Farm and Gyfelia, east of Ruabon; FLINT: possibly bred at Pen-y-cefn, Hendy Ponds and at Swndwr Farm and off Starkey Lane, near Northop.

Non-breeding: the sharp decline in the Lapwing nesting population is not reflected in numbers visiting from elsewhere in Europe outside the breeding season, which has cycled around a mean since the early 1990s.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Lapwing in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**



Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=500 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=500 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | |
| Newport Wetlands Reserve | 1000 | *c.*360 | 50 | | 200 | 50 | 100 | 100 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 500 | 15 | 15 | | | | 42 | 600 |
| Llanrhidian/Weobley | 370 | 1200 | | | 10 | 67 | 450 | 350 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 249 | 237 | 49 | | 63 | 72 | 243 | 600 |
| Gwendraeth estuary | 200 | 500 | 150 | | 28 | 101 | 461 | 153 |
| Taf estuary | 60 | | | | | | | 567 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 3157 | 1075 | 16 | | | 111 | 1880 | 2028 |
| Landshipping - Coedcanlas | | | | | | | 1000 | 350 |
| Castlemartin Corse | 600 | 1100 | | | | 45 | 440 | 1050 |
| PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | |
| Teifi estuary | 1050 | 650 | | | | 105 | 400 | 700 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd/Morfa Dinlle | 780 | 490 | | | | 70 | *c.*300 | *c.*1000 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 1838 | 819 | 1 | | 0 | 126 | 280 | 1434 |
| Malltraeth Cob & estuary | 800 | 950 | | | 0 | 0 | 550 | *c.*2000 |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 605 | 18 | 24 | | 113 | 56 | 280 | 773 |
| Traeth Melynog | 720 | 323 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 92 | |
| RSPB Cors Ddyga | 420 | 640 | 146 | | 51 | 204 | 507 | 480 |
| Cemlyn | 680 | | | | | | | 310 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | |
| Kinmel Bay | *c.*500 | 21 | | | | 20+ | *c.*1500 | |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | |
| Clwyd estuary | 1108 | 447 | | | 185 | *c.*400 | 1013 | 1684 |
| Point of Ayr | 750 | 900 | | | | 120 | 620 | 1000 |
| Connah's Quay NR | 700 | 800 | *c.*100 | | 190 | *c.*200 | 1200 | 1000 |
| RSPB Oakenholt Marsh | 1000 | 800 | | | 200 | 500 | 1000 | 1000 |

Other flocks >=500: PEMBROKE: 1500 at Sandy Haven on 3 Jan.; CEREDIGION: up to 1500 at RSPB Ynyshir in both winter periods; FLINT: 600 on Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 25 Feb.

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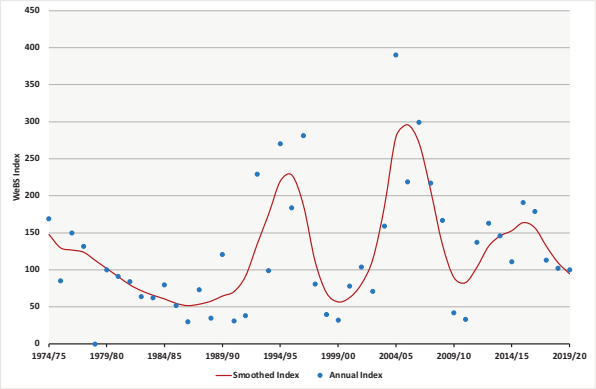
**GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria* CWTIAD AUR

*Declining breeding species (36 pairs in 2008), found chiefly on upland plateaux in Denbighshire, Radnorshire, Ceredigion and Breconshire. Localised in winter, usually in large flocks. Amber WeBS alert: -39% medium term (but +76% long term). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **432** | **352** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **2%** | **1%** |

Breeding: perhaps four territories (*cf*. four confirmed and five probable in 2019) but lockdown prevented visits to most remote upland areas. BRECON: two appeared to occupy a traditional territory in the Black Mountains on the early date of 8 Feb.; three territories occupied by 1-2 birds in mid-July, one of which remained occupied

**Wetland Bird Survey: Golden Plover in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




until at least mid-Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD/DENBIGH: possible territorial pair on Moel Sych on 16 April.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey does not adequately cover the farmland on which many Golden Plovers roost, so caution is required with this index for Wales. Although there are wide annual variations, there is no overall long-term trend in the index.

| *>=400 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | |
| Llanrhidian/Weobley | 1500 | 800 | 850 | | 31 | 655 | 2300 | 4000 |
| Pwll-y-froga | 400 | 482 | 456 | | | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | |
| Gwendraeth estuary | 4000 | 6500 | 3000 | | 50 | 1500 | 3000 | 2000 |
| Taf estuary | 1500 | | | | | | | 3000 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 3000 | 1000 | 2150 | | | 2230 | 3697 | 3100 |
| Landshipping | | | 1500 | | | | 5000 | 2000 |
| Castlemartin Corse | 1000 | 800 | 350 | | | 30 | 500 | 410 |
| Llanrhian | | | | | | | | 1000 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | |
| Ynyslas | | | 520 | | | 860 | | 1100 |
| Llanrhystud | 900 | | | | | 430 | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | |
| Morfa Dinlle/Foryd | P | 8 | P | | P | 10 | | *c.*400 |
| Llanengan | | | | | | | 300 | 600 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 0 | 623 | 39 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cemlyn | 400 | | | | 250 | 250 | 400 | 100 |
| Malltraeth/Cefni estuary | 300 | | | | | | 600 | 1000 |
| Aberffraw | 1500 | | | | | | | 1500 |

Winter flocks >=400 in coastal counties: GOWER: 400+ plus over Mynydd y Gwair on 14 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 2000 at Sandy Haven on 3 Jan.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 650 Teifi est. on 31 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 500 south at Llansantffraed on 28 Jan.; 920 at Leri est. on 17 Nov.; 500 at Sarnau on 6 Dec.

Inland sites holding >=70 at least once during the year.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | |
| Mynydd Pwll-yr-iwrch | 135 | 10 | 4 | | | 20 | | 11 |
| Mynydd Eglwysilan | 25 | 58 | 35 | | | 250 | 264 | 350 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | |
| Llandefalle Hill* | | | 30 | 20 | | 129 | | |
| Mynydd Illtyd | 80 | | 107 | | | 250 | 79 | 1 |
| Y Gamrhiw | | | 20 | | | 15 | | 70 |

* includes Llangoed Common, Mynydd Fforest and Pantyllyn Hill.

Other counts >=70: BRECON: 80+ near Disgwylfa, southern Epynt, on 6 March; 70 at Y Gamrhiw, Llanwrthwl, on 22 Dec.

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**AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis dominica* CORGWTIAD AUR AMERICA

*Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 21 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: adult at the Gann est. on 4 May; 1CY at Abercastle on 11 Oct.

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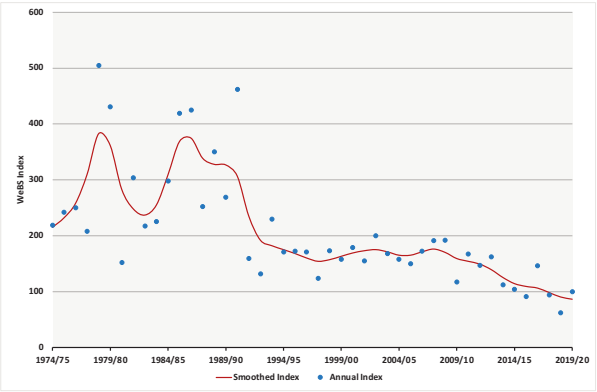
**GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola* CWTIAD LLWYD

*Localised winter visitor to Welsh estuaries, and spring and autumn migrant. Red WeBS alert: -57% long term and amber (-34%) short term. 90% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **306** | **338** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **1%** |

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has reached its lowest point since it was created in the mid-1970s. Numbers declined significantly in the 1990s and have continued to fall, by 51% in the last 12 years. This decline is mirrored across the rest of the UK.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Grey Plover in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




On the Burry Inlet SPA, red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long (-75%) and medium term (61%) and an amber alert (-41%) for the short term. On the Dee estuary SPA, an amber WeBS alert (-37%) has been issued for the long-term. Some sites have seen even greater declines in five-year average counts, such as Carmarthen Bay (-94% in the last decade).

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=40 birds at least once during the year.

| >=40 birds | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peterstone Wentlooge | | | | | | | | | | 44 | 22 | 46 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 58 | 40 | 1 | | | | 3 | 116 | 6 | 87 | 43 | 88 |
| Salthouse Point | 30 | | | | | | | | | | 29 | 48 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 28 | 43 | 18 | 3 | 4 | | | | 5 | 4 | 1 | |
| Gwendraeth estuary | 15 | 46 | 12 | | | | | | 10 | 6 | 28 | 38 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freshwater West | 48 | 37 | | | | | | | 9 | 12 | 14 | 2 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 56 | 349 | 36 | | | | | 2 | 3 | 71 | 98 | 91 |
| Traeth Melynog | 8 | 9 | 56 | | | | | | 0 | 57 | 17 | |

Counts >=40 elsewhere: GWENT: 62 at Undy foreshore on 19 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 63 roosted in Holyhead Bay on 3 Nov.

Inland records: RADNOR: one at Aberedw Hill on 7 Oct.; six records of nocturnal migration in Oct.-Nov.

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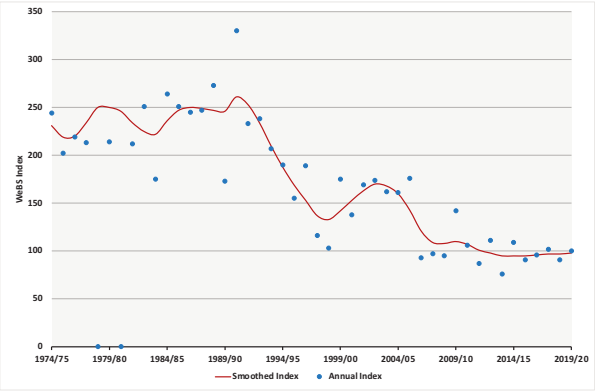
**RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula* CWTIAD TORCHOG

*Scarce breeder (254 pairs in 2007, but records suggest a decline since). Passage migrant and winter visitor to all coastal areas. Red WeBS alert: -62% long-term. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **1452** | **1178** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **6%** | **5%** |

Breeding: 19 pairs confirmed and another six probably or possibly bred (*cf*. 20 and 15 in 2019). Several of these sites do not usually host nesting Ringed Plovers – did the absence of visitors early in the spring encourage birds to settle? GWENT: probably bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); E.GLAMORGAN: two nests at Sker and one at Traeth yr Afon; possibly bred near Cardiff Bay Yacht Club and at Kenfig Rivermouth; GOWER: two pairs bred at Whiteford, and single pairs at Coed Darcy, Port Eynon Pt and Harbour Quay, Swansea; CEREDIGION: at least three broods at Ynyslas; probably bred at Borth; MEIRIONNYDD: bred on a shingle bank at Fairbourne and in the Penllyn area, Tywyn; CAERNARFON: bred at Wig, Morfa Aber, Penrhyn Bay and Aberdaron, and probably at Llanbedrog; FLINT: five pairs at RSPB Point of Ayr; brood at Gronant dunes.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Ringed Plover in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




Non-breeding: following a 59% decline in the Wetland Bird Survey index in the 20 years to 2010/11, numbers have stabilised during the last decade but the picture is variable: numbers on the Dee estuary increased 20% in the last 10 years but declined by 36% in Swansea Bay.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=100 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=100 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newport Wetlands Reserve | 5 | | 15+ | | | 17 | 67 | 250+ | 50+ | | 50+ | 3 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 27 | 18 | 5 | | | | 16 | 283 | 260 | 149 | 41 | 2 |
| Weobley | | | | | | | | 630 | 280 | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burry Port/Pembrey | 40 | 84 | 11 | 5 | 14 | 2 | 8 | 136 | 91 | 28 | 33 | 62 |
| Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point | | 2 | 25 | 200 | | | | 150 | | | 27 | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nevern estuary | 18 | 13 | 1 | | | | | 100 | 19 | 26 | 16 | 14 |
| Teifi estuary | 20 | 15 | 8 | 33 | 57 | | | 195 | 35 | 19 | 13 | |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Borth/Ynyslas | 64 | | | | | | 80 | *c*.1000 | 400 | | 36 | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 12 | 11 | | | | | | 130 | | 18 | 5 | 8 |
| Traeth Lafan | *c*.20 | 34 | 12 | | 2 | 2 | 11 | 107 | 90+ | 46 | *c*.50 | 34 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 2 | 6 | | | | | | 175 | 14 | 52 | | |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Point of Ayr/Talacre | | 2 | 2 | 53 | | 6 | 30 | 200 | 175 | | | |
| Gronant | 23+ | 35 | *c*.40 | 33 | 24 | 2 | 20+ | 276 | 118 | 23 | 2 | 16 |
| Clwyd estuary | | P | | | 2 | | 3 | 227 | 62 | 2 | 2 | 5 |

Other large counts >=100: GWENT: 200 at St Bride's on 7 Sept.; GOWER: 125 at Crymlyn Burrows on 22 Aug.; 165 at Cwm Ivy Tor on 27 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 at Ynys Saltings on 16 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 100 at Cemlyn on 3 May; 150 on Cefni est. on 25 Aug.

Several small, dark birds thought to be of the race *C.h. psammadroma* were recorded passing through Bardsey, CAERNARFON, in spring and autumn.

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**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius* CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

*Rare summer visitor, on industrial sites and gravel shoals of South Wales rivers: 144 pairs in 2007 (RBBP: 55 pairs in 2019). Scarce passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **273** | **126** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **<1%** |

Breeding: 11-43 pairs was a very similar total to 2019 (*cf.* 14-52 pairs), despite no formal monitoring on most nature reserves. GWENT: at least three pairs fledged young at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff); two juveniles at Beaufort Common on 9 July; E.GLAMORGAN: present at Rhaslas Pond and Hirwaun Ind. Est. in May and June; GOWER: three pairs bred at Neath Valley; at least two young fledged at Margam former opencast, Kenfig Hill; probably bred at Castell-du; CARMARTHEN: 30 pairs along R.Tywi between Llanegwad and Manordeilo; BRECON: three at Llangasty on 27 April, with agitated behaviour recorded; three occupied territories at Blaen Dyffryn Quarry on 24 April but breeding not proven due to access restrictions; pair at Blaen Onneu Quarry in June; pair with two juveniles at Talybont Res. on 11 July, a site where breeding has not been recorded previously; MONTGOMERY: bred at Llandinam Gravels NR and R.Dyfi near Machynlleth; MEIRIONNYDD: possibly bred at Ynys Saltings; DENBIGH: seven birds, including at least one pair, at Llyn Brenig on 14 July; present at Llay Pool and Maesmynan GP; FLINT: four at Deeside Ind. Estate

on 3 May; display noted on Clwyd est. on 28 May.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no dates available for GOWER).

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GWENT (provisional)** | 21 March | Newport Wetlands Reserve | | **6 Sept.** | **Newport Wetlands Reserve** |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 29 March | The Watermill flood, Ogmore | | 23 July | Kenfig Pool |
| **CARMARTHEN** | **16 March** | **Llandeilo** | | 24 Aug. | Kidwelly Quay |
| PEMBROKE | 31 March | Carew Millpond | | no autumn records | |
| CEREDIGION | no spring records | | | 14 Aug. | RSPB Ynys-hir |
| BRECON | 8 April | Llangasty | | 11 July | Talybont Reservoir |
| RADNOR | 14 April | Glasbury | | 25 Aug. | Glasbury |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 22 April | Dyfi | | no autumn records | |
| CAERNARFON | no spring records | | | 18 July | Pwllheli |
| ANGLESEY | 25 April | Cemlyn | | 21 July | Cemlyn |
| DENBIGH | 7 May | Llay Pool | | 19 July | Llyn Brenig |
| FLINT | 2 April | St Asaph Business Park | | 6 Aug. | Gronant dunes |

**DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus* HUTAN Y MYNYDD

*Local passage migrant in spring and autumn; nested sporadically until the 1970s, and suspected occasionally since – RBBP: one occupied territory in 2019. Wales Amber listed.*

Spring records: min. 18 birds at five sites (*cf*. 24 birds at eight locations in 2019), but lockdown in April and May meant there were fewer visitors to traditional stopover sites. PEMBROKE: two at St Ann's Head on 14 April; CAERNARFON: in the Carneddau, two males on Foel Fras on 24 April, two on Garnedd Uchaf on 4 May and three at Braich y Brysgyll/Foel Grach on 20 May; birds present on the Great Orme from 26 April to 14 May, peaking at nine on 10 May.

10 records, all singles bar one, in autumn (*cf*. four records at three sites in 2019): PEMBROKE: Skomer on 30 Aug.; Skokholm on 1 Oct.; St Govan's Head on 19-20 Sept.; BRECON: juvenile on Fan Brycheiniog on 18 Aug.; adult on Rhos Dirion, Black Mountains, on 29 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 18-21 Sept.; Carnedd Llywelyn on 19 Sept.; juvenile at Pen y cil on 23 Aug.; two, possibly the same, on Mynydd Rhiw and Uwchmynydd on 19 Sept.

**UPLAND SANDPIPER** *Bartramia longicauda* PIBYDD CYNFFONHIR

*Very rare vagrant, breeds in North America. BBRC: three previous records, all in Pembrokeshire.*

PEMBROKE: one on Skokholm on 31 Oct.

**WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus* COEGYLFINIR

*Locally common in coastal counties on spring and autumn passage, scarce inland. A few over-winter. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **781** | **570** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **3%** | **2%** |

It can be difficult to distinguish between early or late passage birds and wintering individuals. Spring passage probably began with one at Penclawdd, GOWER, on 10 March and one at Penberi Res., PEMBROKE, on 11 March.

The last passage records were one at Flat Holm, E.GLAMORGAN, on 8 Nov., one on the Clwyd estuary, FLINT, on 11 Nov. and a late bird at Gowerton saltmarsh, GOWER, on 14 Nov.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=30 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=30 birds* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | |
| Wernffrwd | | 59 | 45 | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | | 8 | 42 | 10 | 7 | 17 | 2 | 1 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | |
| Dredger Jetty, Pwll | | 75 | 204 | | 10 | | 4 | |
| PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | |
| Teifi estuary | | 47 | 13 | | 2 | 3 | 1 | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | 2 | 43 | 29 | 5 | 47 | 11 | 2 | 4 |
| Porthdinllaen/Nefyn | | 44 | 95 | | | | | |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | |
| Point of Ayr/Talacre | | 33 | | 1 | 8 | 4 | 1 | |

Passage counts >=30 elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 35 at Abermawr on 27 April; 49 at Porthselau, St Davids, on 7 May; 60 at St Davids GC on 9 May; CEREDIGION: 100 at Borth/Ynyslas on 2 May; ANGLESEY: 30+ at Inland Sea/Beddmanarch Bay on 3 May.

First winter period (Jan./Feb.), all singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: over-wintered on Skokholm 2019-20; Llanreath-Hobb's Pt on 12 Jan.; CAERNARFON: two on Bardsey on 24 March and one on 29th, prior to spring passage suggesting that they had wintered on the island; ANGLESEY: Cefni est. and Cemlyn in March; FLINT: Clwyd est. on 29 Jan, and 13 and 25 Feb.

Second winter period, all singles: PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 4 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn from 13 Nov. to 20 Dec.; Penmon from 14 Nov. to at least 7 Dec.

Inland records, all singles unless stated: BRECON: Llangorse on 25 April; several heard north over Llangorse on 3 May; five at Llangasty Pt on 6 May; at least one over Llangorse Lake on 24 May.

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**CURLEW** *Numenius arquata* GYLFINIR

*Localised and declining breeding species in upland Wales and a few lowland sites. Abundant winter visitor to coastal areas. Amber WeBS alert: -37% long-term, the greatest decline of any country in the UK. 64% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.*

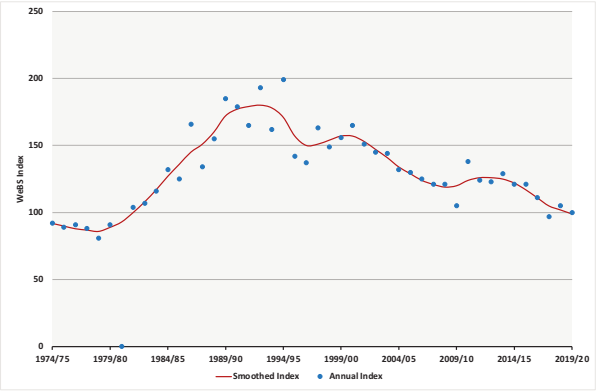
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **4427** | **3600** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **18%** | **15%** |

The BirdTrack reporting rate has been falling annually (from over 24% in 2013 and 2014), reflecting the decline in both the breeding and wintering populations in Wales.

Breeding season: five confirmed nests, 23-27 probable and 16 possible pairs, far fewer records than in 2019 (*cf*. 18, 64 and 23 respectively) presumably as a result of lockdown restrictions, although the total of 44-48 records was higher than in 2018 (*cf*. 41). E.GLAMORGAN: pair in suitable habitat at Tir-Lan farm on 12 April; 1+ at Craig Fargoed, Coed Cefn-fforest, Cwm Cothi and Mynydd y Capel; PEMBROKE: two pairs on Skomer; CEREDIGION: in suitable habitat at Cors Caron, Cors Ian and near Ffair Rhos; BRECON: nest predated in the Usk Valley; territorial behaviour on Cefn Clawdd on 2 June; RADNOR: pair at The Begwns on 3 April; MONTGOMERY: three pairs nested in the Montgomeryshire part of the Camlad Valley

and Churchstoke area; one nest at Lake Vyrnwy predated by a Fox; a few other scattered nesting records, mostly in the uplands in the centre of the county; MEIRIONNYDD: territorial birds at Gwerclas on 13 March, Cynwyd on 3 April and near Fron Goch on 6 April; territorial bird near Tyddninco, Llandderfel, from 24 March through April; probably two pairs on Dyfrdwy floodplain; pair at Llyn Mynyllod in April; two pairs at Pen y Bryn, Melin y Wig; min. 3-4 pairs (possibly 7-8 pairs) around Pant Teg, Glan yr Afon; one at Milltir Gerrig, Berwyn, on 16 April flying toward Bryn Ysbio, possibly on territory; possible territory on Rhug estate; CAERNARFON: two in suitable breeding habitat at Mynydd Llandygai on 9 April; Bwlch Derwin on 19 April; Mynytho Common on 29 April; singing in wet grassland near Bryncir on 18 June; one near Pantglas in June and on 1 July; ANGLESEY: two displaying males at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 2 April; DENBIGH: probably bred at Moel Morfydd, Cefn Canol, Nant-y-ffrith Res., Isycoed (Wrexham) and Penycae; FLINT: one at Marian Prysiau, Caerwys, in April and May.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Curlew in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has been falling at a steady rate since the early 1990s, by 44% since the peak in 1992/93. This presumably reflects a decline in breeding numbers to the north and east of Wales. A Red WeBS alert has been issued for the Burry Inlet SPA (-60%) and an Amber alert in the Dee estuary SPA (-37%). The downward trend is evident on most Welsh estuaries, an exception being Traeth Lafan, where the most recent five-year average is 74% higher than in 1990/91-1994/95.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=500 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=500 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 558 | 383 | 140 | | | 35 | 253 | | 536 | 379 | 420 | 445 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dyfi estuary | 567 | 576 | | | | | | | | | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 340 | 300 | 70 | | | | 320 | 280 | 500 | 120 | 220 | 200 |
| Traeth Lafan | 726 | 956 | 510 | 9 | 2 | 84 | 4 | 50 | 1511 | 1455 | 879 | 1196 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Point of Ayr/Talacre | 450 | 8 | 700 | *c.*70 | | 2 | 550 | 1000 | 1000 | 750 | 700 | 500 |

Ringing: ANGLESEY: a colour-ringed bird at Cemlyn on 8 Dec. had been hand-raised at a zoo in Nordhorn, Germany, in 2012 and subsequently released into the wild. This was the first subsequent sighting.

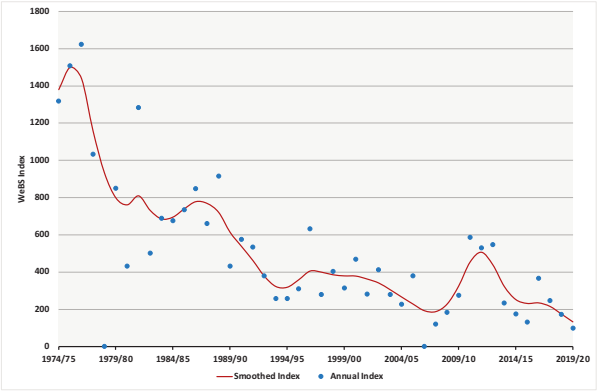
**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica* RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRAITH

*Local passage migrant, more numerous in autumn than spring, and winter visitor. Rare away from the coasts. Red WeBS alert: -50% long-term and -51% short-term, although +21% medium term. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 443 | 344 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 1% |

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a sustained decline since the 1970s, to a level in 2019/20 that is 91% below its peak and the greatest decline of any wader in Wales over the last 25 years (-58%). Until recently, this decline was not reflected elsewhere in the UK. A WeBS red alert (-54%) for the long-term and an amber alert (-46%) for the short-term has been issued on the Dee estuary SPA. Other sites with significant declines since 1994/95-1998/99 include Carmarthen Bay (-89%) and Foryd Bay (-44%), although several sites with smaller numbers have recorded increases.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Bar-tailed Godwit in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=50 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=50 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 2 | 1 | 1 | 110 | 4 | | | | 5 | 5 | | 1 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | *c.*20 | 9 | 15 | | | | | 4 | 12 | 16 | 46 | 50+ |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 58 | 49 | 0 | 20 | | 4 | | | 7 | 24 | 30 | 61 |

Other counts >=50: GOWER: 100 at Salthouse Pt in Jan. and 44 in Feb.; CARMARTHEN: 161 on the Tywi est. in Dec.

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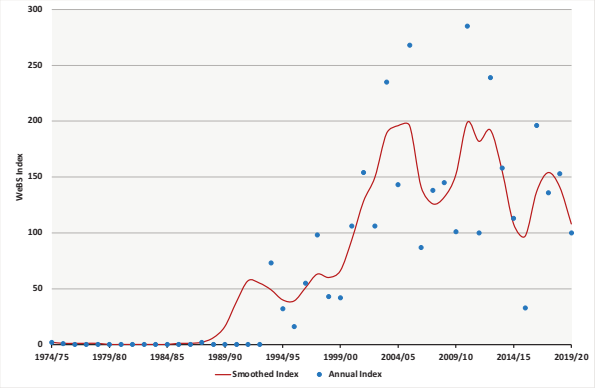
**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa limosa* RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

*Localised spring and autumn passage migrant; wintering numbers have increased on the Dee estuary, usually on the English side. Amber WeBS alert: -27% short-term, but +140% for long-term. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1695 | 1292 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 6% | 5% |

This is one of only two waders to have increased in numbers in Wales during the last 25 years, by 170% since 1994/95. Counts can vary considerably between years, whereas the trend is more consistently upward elsewhere in the UK. The most important sites in Wales are the Dee estuary (+255% over 25 years), Burry Inlet (+585%), Severn estuary (+660%), Cleddau estuary (+1,315%) and Carmarthen Bay (+1,300%).

**Wetland Bird Survey: Black-tailed Godwit in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=50 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=50 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newport Wetlands Reserve | 20 | 5 | 56 | | | 1 | 300 | 350+ | *c.*360 | 1 | 20 | 2 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | | | | | | | | | | 57 | 88 | |
| Penclawdd/Dalton's Point | 182 | 94 | | | | | 179 | | | | | 27 |
| Salthouse Point | 100 | 45 | | | | | | | | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 412 | 520 | 480 | 1088 | 407 | 182 | 303 | 543 | 739 | 692 | 464 | 290 |
| Gwendraeth estuary | | 100 | 33 | | | | 4 | 22 | 30 | 60 | 75 | 2 |
| Tywi estuary | 249 | | | | | | | | 15 | 97 | 408 | 90 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 172 | 2 | 9 | | | | 13 | | 28 | 14 | 175 | 355 |
| Pembroke Mill Ponds | | 8 | | | | | | 25 | 73 | 51 | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 150+ | 8 | 2 | | | | | 1 | 7 | *c.*20 | 138 | 9 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Conwy | P | 2 | P | P | | | 23 | 4+ | 100 | P | | |
| Kinmel Bay | *c.*25 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | *c.*65 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Point of Ayr/Talacre | 3 | P | | | | | 8 | 200 | 12 | P | 1 | 1200 |
| Flint saltmarsh | 200+ | | 70 | | | | | 40 | 1 | | 1 | 6 |
| Connah's Quay NR | 850 | 60 | | | | | | 2800 | 2000 | 30 | 200 | 65 |
| RSPB Oakenholt Marsh | 2000 | 500 | 6 | | | | | 2500 | 2500 | 2600 | 2500 | 300 |
| Clwyd estuary | 96 | *c.*85 | 66 | | | | *c.*80 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 21 | 32 |

Other counts >=50: GWENT: 100+ at Nash on 4 Jan.; 110 at Peterstone Great Wharf on 15 Jan.; *c.*75 at Peterstone Sluice farm on 15 Jan.; 59 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 17 Nov.; GOWER: 58 at Loughor Bridge on 13 March; 68 at Blackpill on 7 Nov.

Inland: GWENT: 10 at Llandegfedd Res. on 15 July; BRECON: an increased number of records from Llangorse Lake, with four on 20-21 March, one at Llangasty on 26 July, four here on 16-21 Aug. and three on 23rd.

Black-tailed Godwits (Bob Garrett)

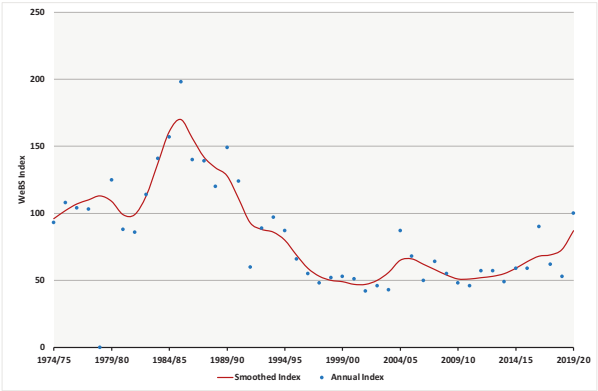
**TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres* CWTIAD TRAETH

*Localised passage migrant and winter visitor, 66% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). A few non-breeding birds are present throughout the summer. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1302 | 1197 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 5% | 5% |

Surprisingly, the annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019/20 was the highest recorded since 1990/91, and 23% higher than the previous year. The sites wholly within Wales that have the highest counts are Traeth Lafan, Foryd Bay and the Conwy estuary, which collectively have recorded a 264% increase in the last 25 years, whereas numbers on the Dee estuary have fallen by 78% in that period. Red WeBS alerts have been issued for the long term (-89%) and medium term (-78%) on the Burry Inlet SPA.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Turnstone in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**



Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=50 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=50 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newport Wetlands Reserve | 53 | 4 | 7 | | | | 14 | 12 | 10+ | | 30 | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sker Pt area incl. Pink Bay | 30 | 85+ | 82 | 25 | 16 | | 18 | 41 | 10 | 68 | 52 | 26 |
| Rest Bay/Ffynnon-wen | 30 | 55 | 18 | | | | | | | 3 | 50 | |
| Porthcawl seafront | 12 | 6 | 14 | | | 1 | | 52 | 12 | | 39 | 10 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 190 | 150 | | | | | | 11 | | | 75 | 123 |
| Mumbles/West Cross | 20 | 40 | 111 | | | | 65 | 193 | 220 | 155 | 57 | 97 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pwll | | 12 | 17 | 3 | | | | 2 | 5 | 76 | 100 | 15 |
| Burry Port | 41 | 20 | 37 | | | | | 23 | 126 | 131 | 17 | 10 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 50 | 61 | 8 | | | | | | 38 | 51 | 3 | 11 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | | | 23 | 21 | 29 | 1 | 27 | 77 | 86 | 78 | | |
| Foryd | 170 | 120 | *c.*130 | | | | | 14 | 86 | 130 | 120+ | 190 |
| Traeth Lafan | *c.*60 | 50 | 66 | | | | | 12 | 70 | *c.*60 | 76 | 188 |
| Deganwy | | | | | | | 2 | | 30 | | *c.*95 | 1 |
| Rhos Point | 160+ | *c.*70 | *c.*150 | | | 1 | | 140+ | 9 | *c.*45 | 15+ | 2 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 54 | 16 | 36 | | | | | | 2 | 38 | 38 | 17 |
| Cemlyn | | | | | | | 45 | 50 | | 35 | | 18 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kinmel Bay | 281 | 282 | 76 | 307 | 181 | 3 | | 166 | 163 | | 74 | 58 |
| Llanddulas | 194 | 139 | 136 | | | | | | 87 | 72 | 101 | 29 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mostyn Dock | 41 | | 31 | | | | | | | 54 | 55 | 35 |

Counts >=50 elsewhere: GOWER: 56 at Swansea East Pier on 4 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 150+ at Caernarfon foreshore on 7 March; *c.*50 at Penrhyn Bay on 1 Feb.; 50 in Dwyfor est. on 20 Sept.

Inland: GWENT: one at Llandegfedd Res. on 14 Aug. and two here on 25th.

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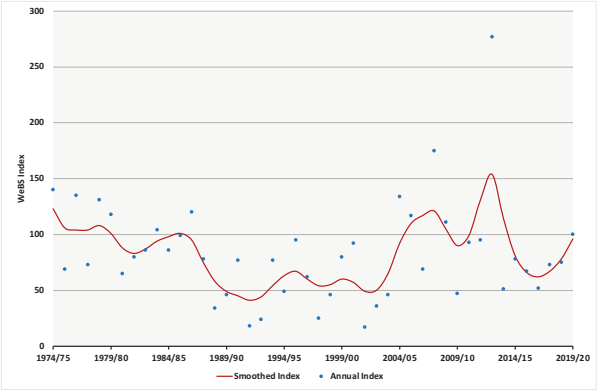
**KNOT** *Calidris canutus* PIBYDD YR ABER

*Locally common winter visitor to some estuaries, but scarce elsewhere. Also passage migrant, but rare inland. Red WeBS alert: -50% for medium term and -55% for short term. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **474** | **503** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **2%** | **2%** |

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fluctuates but has remained very stable over the long-term. A Red WeBS alert (-52%) for the medium term and Amber alerts for the short (-40%) and long (-33%) terms have been issued for the Burry Inlet SPA, which remains an important wintering area in a Welsh context. Amber alerts have been issued for the short (-40%), medium (-31%) and long (-40%) term on the Dee estuary SPA.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Knot in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=300 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=300 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 300 | 320 | | | | | | | | 32 | | 2000 |
| Salthouse Point | 2500 | 500 | 210 | | | | | | | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 311 | 850 | 200 | 311 | 167 | 10 | 25 | | 6 | 254 | 877 | 500 |
| Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point | 1500 | | | | | | | | | 300 | 446 | 2750 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | | 160 | 30 | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1100 |
| Traeth Lafan | *c.*1500 | 550 | 400 | | | | 2 | 28 | *c.*25 | *c.*35 | *c.*300 | 105 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Melynog/Braint est. | 560 | 840 | 457 | | | | | | 0 | 0 | 385 | 1100 |
| Cefni estuary | | | 400 | | | | | 50 | | | | 90 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Point of Ayr/Talacre | 800 | P | 30 | | | | | 220 | 2 | 300 | 450 | 1500 |
| Ffynnongroyw | 800 | | | | | | | | 220 | 2000 | 300 | |
| Flint | 100+ | | | | | | | | 3 | | 1050+ | 12 |
| RSPB Oakenholt Marsh | 300 | 318 | 2 | | | | | 9 | 259 | 80 | 2500 | 400 |
| Connah's Quay NR | | 20 | 4 | | | | | 12 | 50 | 1 | 3000 | 100+ |

Counts >=300 elsewhere: GOWER: counts elsewhere in the Burry Inlet included 350+ at Pwll y Froga on 25 Oct., 2000 at Llanrhidian on 15 Nov. and 690 at Wernffrwd on 15 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*1600 at Machynys on 1 Jan. and *c.*2300 here on 23 Jan.; FLINT: 475 at Mostyn dock on 20 Sept.

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**RUFF** *Calidris pugnax* PIBYDD TORCHOG

*Localised passage migrant in small numbers, principally in autumn. Occasionally winters. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **255** | **276** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **1%** |

There is no Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales, but it is evident that the number of Ruffs has decreased since the 1970s, when double-figure counts were not unusual. However, the BirdTrack reporting rate in 2020 was as high as any previous year, in contrast to lower rates for most waders.

Number of birds in each county.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 12 | 7 | 3 | | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 1 | |
| PEMBROKE | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | 6 | 2 | | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | | | |
| ANGLESEY | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 12 | 40 | | | |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| FLINT | 2 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Counts >=5 included in the table: GWENT: 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 23 Aug., seven here on 21 Sept. and six on 23rd; CARMARTHEN: six at Kidwelly Marsh on 19 Sept.; ANGLESEY: six at Alaw est. on 9 Aug.; double figures at RSPB Cors Ddyga on several dates in Sept., max. 30 on 17th.

Ringing: ANGLESEY: colour-ringed bird at Cemlyn from 23 April to 4 May had been ringed in Aug. 2019 at Makkevika, Giske, Møre og Romsdal, Norway.

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**CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea* PIBYDD CAMBIG

*Uncommon passage migrant to coastal areas, principally in autumn, relatively numerous in some years. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **174** | **253** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Spring passage, all singles: PEMBROKE: Carew on 26 March; Gann est. on 4 May and presumed same on Skokholm on 5-9 May; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 27-28 April.

While not spectacular, with a min. 132 individuals, autumn passage was above the 30-year average (n=124). Only 10 years have recorded more birds since 1992. All were single birds unless stated: GWENT: four at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Aug., then regular records here until 23 Sept., max. six on 2nd, then two on 18 Oct.; max. six at Peterstone Wentlooge on 4 Sept., six at St Bride's Wentlooge on 7 Sept. and four at Caldicot Pill on 15th; E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Newton beach/Traeth yr Afon on 2-6 Sept.; Sker Pt on 2 Sept.; Newton beach on 17-18 Sept.; GOWER: 1CY at Loughor Bridge on 31 Aug. and 5 Sept.; five at Whiteford Pt and four at Weobley saltings on 5 Sept. and six at the latter site on 7th; two 1CY near Loughor Bridge on 10 Sept.; 1CY at Culfor Road, Loughor, on 19 Sept.; 1CY at Cwm Ivy on 22 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: two at Kidwelly Quay on 31 July; five at Lliedi est. on 31 Aug.; Penclawydd in Sept. and Oct.; Kidwelly Quay on 5-24 Sept., two here on 7th and three on 17th; two at Morfa Bacas on 12 Sept.; two at Loughor Bridge on 13 Sept.; Kidwelly Marsh on 18 Oct.; Ferry Pt, Llansteffan, on 25 Nov.; PEMBROKE: Gann est. from 30 Aug. to 1 Oct. and 18 Oct., with three here on 2 Sept.; three at Nevern est. on 2 Sept.; two at Little Milford on 10 Sept. and one here on 23 Oct.; two at Landshipping on 20 Sept.; Angle Bay on 14 Sept. and 23 Nov.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 2 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 20-21 Aug.; up to three at Ynyslas on eight dates between 31 Aug. and 2 Oct.; Mwnt on 3 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1CY at Tonfanau on 24 Aug.; Arthog on 26 Aug.; CAERNARFON: two at Rhos Pt on 25 Aug.; two at Morfa Aber on 27 Aug. and 1CY here on 15 Sept.; Llanfairfechan on 6 Sept.; six at Foryd on 13 Sept.; two at Pwllheli on 14 Sept. and 1CY here on 16th; Bardsey on 15 Sept. and three here on 17th; ANGLESEY: two at Alaw est. on 28-29 Aug., three here on 1 Sept., one on 2nd, three on 3rd, one on 4-6

Sept., two on 7-8 Sept., three on 10th, one on 11th and two on 13th; Malltraeth Cob on 30 Aug.; Red Wharf Bay on 13 Sept.; Cemlyn on 14 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 5, 9, 11, 13 and 20 Sept.; FLINT: Clwyd est. on 26-27 Aug.; Connah's Quay NR on 30 Aug. and 2, 7, 9 and 12 Sept.; Deeside Ind. Park on 5 Sept.; Gronant on 17 Sept.

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**SANDERLING** *Calidris alba* PIBYDD Y TYWOD

*Winter visitor, locally fairly common on sandy beaches in Flintshire and South Wales. Passage migrant on the coast but scarce inland. Amber WeBS alerts: -42% for short-term and -45% for medium term. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **392** | **344** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **1%** |

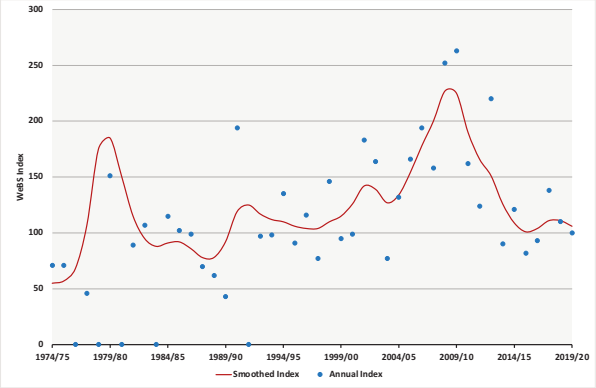
The long-term increase in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales was slowed by the sharp fall in the six years from 2009/10, but that has been arrested over the last few winters. The counts at Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt, CARMARTHEN, in January was only slightly short of the Welsh record 1093 seen here in February 2019.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=50 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=50 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newton Point/beach | 58 | 14 | 200 | | | | | 20 | 50 | 50 | 49 | 16 |
| Kenfig Sands | | | | | | 16 | | 11 | 20 | | 100+ | |
| Rest Bay | | 152 | | | | | | | | | 20 | |
| Sker Point & Pink Bay | 15 | 152 | 156 | | | | 130 | 200 | | | 37 | |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oxwich | 50 | 24 | 36 | 29 | | 60 | | | | 45 | 30 | 31 |
| Aberafan Beach | 76 | 140 | 40 | 167 | | 10 | | 156 | 167 | | 180 | 380 |
| Margam Sands | 777 | 800 | | 320 | | | | | | 180 | 166 | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burry Port/Pembrey | | 43 | 600 | 24 | | | 65 | 150 | | | | |
| Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point | 1000 | 362 | 365 | 700 | | | 400 | 500 | | 61 | 250 | 243 |
| CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dyfi estuary | 7 | 14 | 16 | | | | 3 | 12 | 100 | 12 | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glaslyn/Dwyryd estuary | 97 | 90 | | | | | | | | | 10 | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Conwy estuary | | | 50+ | | | | 4 | | | | *c.*55 | *c.*70 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kinmel Bay | 20+ | 41 | 23 | 2 | | | | 4 | | | 124 | 1 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gronant/Talacre | 45 | 12 | *c.*50 | 130 | 6 | | 40+ | 40+ | 25 | 36 | *c.*75 | *c.*160 |

Other flocks >=50: GOWER: 100 at Whiteford on 19 Jan.; 75 at Rhossili Bay on 21 Jan.; 71 at Crymlyn Burrows on 22 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*100 off Pwll on 17 April; CAERNARFON: 65 at West Shore, Llandudno, on 28 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 50+ on Newborough Beach on 28 July.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Sanderling in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




**DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina* PIBYDD MAWN

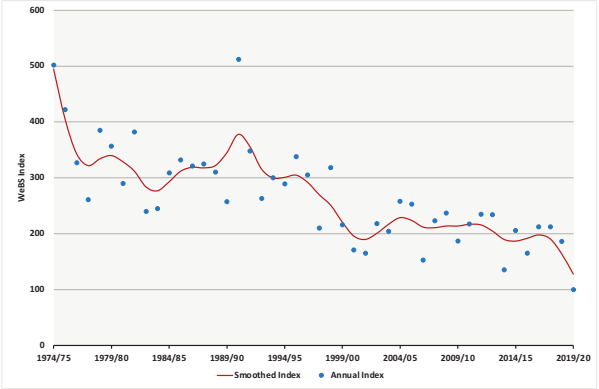
*Scarce and local breeder, restricted to a few blanket bogs with scattered pools. Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber WeBS alert: -44% long-term, the highest of any UK country. 94% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2080 | 1802 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 8% | 7% |

Breeding season/habitat: BRECON: no visits to prime breeding locations, but 12 on mud at Pant-y-clwydau above Llyn Brianne on 21 June may represent much of the remnant breeding population from the nearby Elenydd uplands.

Non-breeding: the annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales was at its lowest ever value in 2019/20, a fall of 22% in just one year and 74% lower than its 1974/75 baseline. The UK trend is also significantly down, but the rate is greater in Wales than in the other three territories. The most important Welsh sites for Dunlin are the Severn and Dee estuaries, and the Burry Inlet SPA, where Amber WeBS alerts have been issued for short (-26%) and long (-41%) term declines.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Dunlin in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**



Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=1000 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=1000 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caldicot Pill | 3000+ | 1000 | | | | | 6 | 100+ | 322 | 120 | 1000+ | 578 |
| Newport Wetlands | 5000 | *c.*450 | 20 | | | 21 | 500 | 280 | 410+ | 2 | 200 | 200 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | 263 | 205 | | | | | 8 | 92 | 500 | 204 | 1000 | 2000 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penrhyngwyn | *c.*1500 | *c.*2000 | | | | | | | | | | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 4182 | 2346 | 461 | | | | | | 145 | 334 | 2116 | 2925 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 2500+ | 1824 | 51 | | 4 | | 31 | 380+ | 109 | 249 | 1200+ | *c.*1500 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flint | 35 | | 7 | | | | | 15 | 8 | | 40+ | 1100+ |
| RSPB Oakenholt Marsh | 400 | 2000 | 20 | | | | | 90 | 100 | 1000 | 1300 | 3100 |
| Connah's Quay NR | 1 | 4 | | | | | | 12 | 25 | 12 | 1000 | 2500 |

Other flocks >=1000: GWENT: 5000+ at Nash on 4 Jan.

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**PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima* PIBYDD DU

*Localised winter visitor in small numbers to rocky shorelines. Red WeBS alerts: -51% medium term and amber alert (-42%) for short-term, but long-term is +96%. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **151** | **145** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

This species appears to be declining in Wales, with counts at most of the regular sites down in recent years. The average BirdTrack reporting rate in 2019-20 (0.45%) is less than half that of 2013-14 (1%). Notable was one at Burry Port Harbour on 28 Oct., which was only the third record for Carmarthenshire since 1991.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=10 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=10 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sker Point | 2 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 9 | | | | | | 6 | 6 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Port Eynon/Sedger's Bank | 1 | 14 | 12 | 4 | | | | | | | 11 | 16 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Monkstone to Tenby | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 10 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | | | 15 | 25 | 32 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 9 | 9 | | |
| Rhos Point | 20 | 9 | 5 | | | | | | | | 5 | 7 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cemlyn | 7 | | 16 | | | | 2 | | | 9 | 22 | |
| Trearddur Bay | 19 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | |

Other counts >=10: ANGLESEY: 12 at The Range on 21 Feb.; 15 west past Pt Lynas on 26 Sept.

**LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta* PIBYDD BACH

*Uncommon passage migrant in small numbers to coastal areas, principally in autumn. Rare inland. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 59 | 136 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Spring passage, both singles: BRECON: Llangasty Pt on 24 May; ANGLESEY: Alaw est. on 4-5 June.

Autumn passage, involving a min. 36 individuals, was well below the 30-year average (n=90). Only six years since 1992 have had lower totals. All were singles unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on most dates between 6 Aug. and 12 Sept., max. five on 15 Aug., again regularly on 19-23 Sept., max. four on 22nd and one on 18 Oct.; GOWER: Weobley saltings on 20 Sept.; Whiteford Sands on 22 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Kidwelly Quay on 19-21 Sept.; Penclacwydd on 28 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Angle Bay on 15 Sept.; Nevern est. on 18 Sept.; Gann est. on 19 Sept.; Little Milford on 21 Sept. and 6 Oct.; Teifi est. on 9-10 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud from 21 Aug. to 9 Sept. and different birds here on 11-16 Sept. and 18 Oct.; Ynyslas on 3 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1CY at Tonfanau on 24 Aug.; 1CY at Llyn Trawsfynydd on 28 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Pwllheli on 6 and 8 Aug.; Rhos Pt on 25 Aug.; two south over Bardsey on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 1CY at Red Wharf Bay on 18 Sept.; Malltraeth Cob and Cefni est. on 29 Sept.; FLINT: Talacre on 14 Sept. and 18 Oct.; Gronant on 17 and 29 Sept., and 1 Oct.

2019 E.GLAMORGAN: two at Llwyn-on Res. on 23 May.

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**BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** *Calidris subruficollis* PIBYDD BRONLLWYD

*Scarce transatlantic visitor. WBRC: 69 previous records.*

Singles unless stated. PEMBROKE: St Govan's on 5 Sept.; two at St Govan's, presumed different, on 18-20 Sept.; two at Marloes Mere on 12-15 Sept., one remaining until 21st and presumed one of these at Gann est. on 16th.

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**PECTORAL SANDPIPER** *Calidris melanotos* PIBYDD CAIN

*Scarce vagrant from North America and Siberia. WBRC: 142 previous records.*

Singles: GWENT: 1CY at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 20-22 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 31 May and 15 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 1CY at Llanrhystud on 10 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 1CY at Cemlyn on 9 Sept.

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**WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola* CYFFYLOG

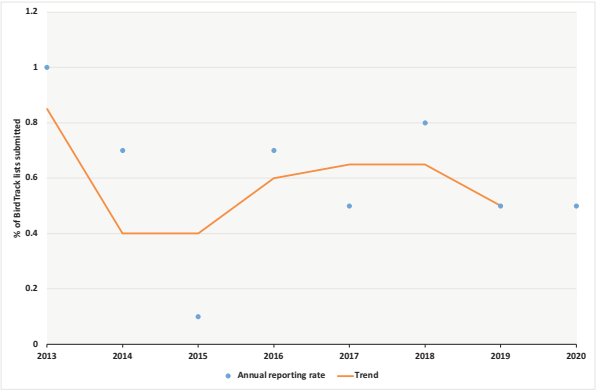
*Localised and declining breeder. Widespread and fairly common in winter. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 182 | 155 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

The breeding status of this species in Wales remains poorly understood, but records of breeding or possible breeding have been in single figures for several years. The only records that suggested possible breeding in 2020 were two at Chepstow Park Wood, Gwent, on 20 May and 23 June.

The BirdTrack reporting rate has been surprisingly consistent over recent years.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Woodcock in Wales 2013-20**




Non-breeding max. passage and wintering counts (3+) listed below. Most multiple counts resulted from nocturnal ringing effort or shooting:

First winter period. E.GLAMORGAN: four at Cwm Cadlan on 28 Jan.; GOWER: six at Brynmoel Farm, Upper Killay, on 19 Jan., 20 here on 19 Feb. and 11 on 22nd; CARMARTHEN: 14 at Penclacwydd in Feb.; PEMBROKE: at ringing sites in Mynydd Preseli, 12 at Boncath on 5 Jan., 10 here on 6 and 14 Feb. and on 10 March, and five at Cippyn on 3 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 14 at Soar y Mynydd on 7 March; BRECON: 12 and 10 in adjacent tetrads of Tywi Forest at Carreg Clochdy and Pant-y-clwydau on 7 March; CAERNARFON: three at Penrhyn Bay on 5 and 14 Jan.; ANGLESEY: 31 flew from Newborough Forest to the adjacent warren in 15 mins on 20 Jan.; FLINT: four at Rhydymwyn on 12 Jan.

Second winter period. GOWER: four at Afan Forest Park on 10 Nov.; PEMBROKE: six at Frenni on 13 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 8-10 at Foel Boeth, Bala, during 15-24 Dec.; CAERNARFON: five at Penrhyn Bay on 7 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 19 in Newborough Forest in Dec.

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: one ringed at Ffarmers on 3 Jan. was shot at Kursk, Russia, on 28 March, a distance of 2750km.

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**JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocryptes minimus* GIACH BACH

*Uncommon (and probably under-recorded) passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.*

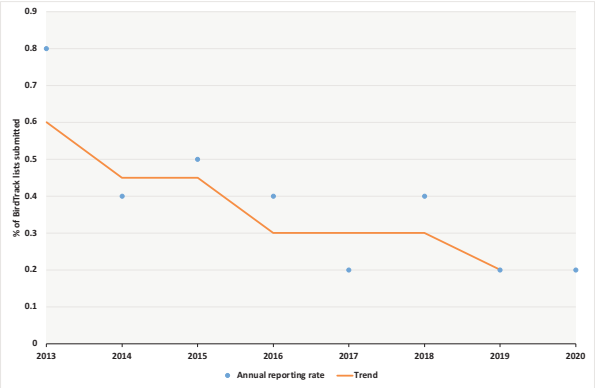
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **78** | **75** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

There is no Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales, but that for the UK has been falling since the start of this century. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has fallen during the last decade. The earliest record of the second winter

Numbers in each county of occurrence

| *Monthly totals* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1+ |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 5 | 3 | 2 | | | | 5 | 4 |
| GOWER (min.) | 3 | | 3 | | | | 2 | |
| CARMARTHEN | 2 | | | | | | 5 | 1 |
| PEMBROKE | 4 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | 4 | 4 | 2 | |
| BRECON | | 1 | 3 | | | 5 | | 1 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | 1 | | | | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | 5 | | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| ANGLESEY | 10 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | 12 | 18 | 5 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | 1 | |
| FLINT | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Jack Snipe in Wales 2013-20**




period was one at Dowrog, Pembrokeshire, on 19 Sept.

Records of >=5 included in the table above: CAERNARFON: seven at Gwaun Gynfi on 27 Nov.; ANGLESEY: five at Pentraeth on 15 Jan.; eight at Red Wharf Bay on 16 Oct. and five here on 27 Nov.; nine at RSPB Valley Wetlands in Nov.

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**SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago* GIACH CYFFREDIN

*Localised but declining breeder (1100 pairs). Fairly common and more widespread in winter. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1515 | 1280 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 6% | 5% |

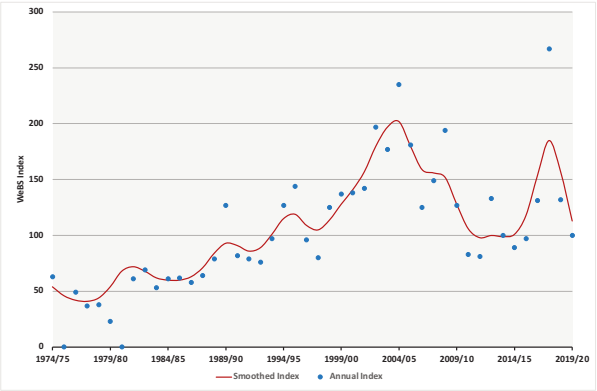
Records denote presence during the breeding season (from 15 sites, *cf*. 26 in 2019) unless greater evidence is provided: GWENT: one at Mynydd Llangatwg on 25 May; GOWER: two at Dyffryn Cellwyn, displaying on 6 April; CEREDIGION: RSPB Ynys-hir, Cors Fochno, Cors Caron and Llyn Nant Y Cagl; BRECON: several drumming over Traeth Bach, Mynydd Illtyd, on 21 April; one at Cefn Llechid pool on 6 June; one over Cefngwaunhynog (Coelbren) on 19 July; MEIRIONNYDD: first chipping bird at Ynys Saltings on 24 March, with good numbers chipping on 7 and 27 June; one chipping at east end of Llyn Trawsfynydd on 25 June; one chipping at Yr Ynys, Pennal, on 28 June and two in this area on 5 July; one at Llyn Cors y Barcud, Nant Prysor, on 3 Aug.;

**Snipe (Michael Thackeray)**

CAERNARFON: Mynydd Llandygai on 9 April; one in Cwm Eigiau on 11 July.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey probably covers only a very small proportion of the Welsh population, so the annual index can vary considerably. Counts at RSPB Cors Ddyga were much lower in 2019/20, the highest being 160 birds compared to 436 and 526 in the preceding two years.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Snipe in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=40 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=40 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oxwich Marsh | 50+ | | 6 | | | | | | 12 | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gwendraeth estuary | 40 | 3 | | | | 5 | 17 | 20 | 40 | 16 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 42 | 36 | 22 | | | | 3 | 5 | 5 | 206 |
| Castlemartin Corse | 80 | 47 | 60 | | | | | 15 | 80 | 100 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 25 | 13 | 14 | 9 | | | 4 | 32 | 40 | |
| Mynydd Illtyd | 62 | 55 | 24 | 3 | | | 15 | 39 | 1 | 82 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 11 | 11 | 6 | | | 3 | 26 | 34 | 49 | 9 |
| Traeth Lafan | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | 2 | 35 | 15 | 40 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Cors Ddyga | 15 | 71 | 9 | | | *c.*150 | 326 | 204 | 193 | 30 |
| RSPB Valley Wetlands | 95 | 50 | 11 | 1 | | 2 | 33 | 47 | 153 | 172 |
| Red Wharf Bay | | | | | | | | | 125 | 25 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | |
| Connah's Quay NR | 43 | 45 | 26 | | | 1 | 3 | 34 | 37 | 105 |
| Gronant | 36 | *c.*40 | 1 | | | | 6 | 11 | 12 | 13 |

Other counts >=40: PEMBROKE: 120 at Little Milford on 25 Nov.; 125 on the eastern Cleddau est. on 13 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 71 at Morfa Cyd on 17 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 100+ at Malltraeth Cob on 6 Oct.

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus lobatus* LLYDANDROED GYDDFGOCH
*Rare passage migrant. WBRC: 67 previous records.*

While the bird in East Glamorgan was not the latest ever, only 6% of Welsh records of this species have occurred in November.

E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Sker Pool on 4 Nov. was the first in the county since 2013; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 21 July.

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**GREY PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus fulicarius* LLYDANDROED LLWYD
*Uncommon and irregular passage migrant, predominantly to coastal areas during September-October.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 69 | 21 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: male in breeding plumage at Sker Pool on 29 May; Cardiff Bay on 1-4 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Burry Port Harbour during stormy weather on 29 Oct.; PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 28 July and four here on 22 Aug.; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 7 Oct.; Glandyfi on 4 Nov.; RADNOR: found dead at Rhayader on 19 Nov.; CAERNARFON: three south past Bardsey on 22 Aug., two here on 5 Sept. and one on 10 Oct.

2017 E.GLAMORGAN: adult and 1CY at Sker Pt on 14 Sept.

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**COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos* PIBYDD DORLAN
*Summer visitor that breeds in most counties, but declining (490 pairs). Around 20 over-winter, though up to 40 in some years. Wales Red listed.*

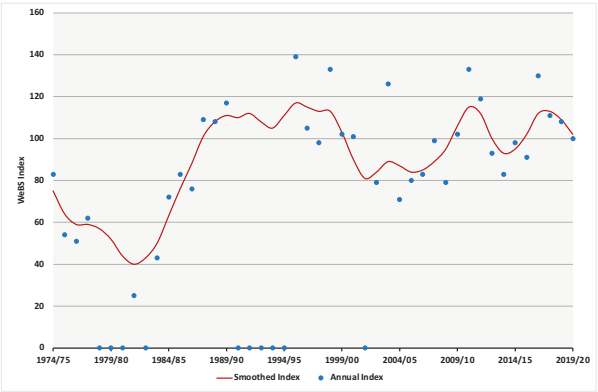
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1026 | 810 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 4% | 3% |

Summary of breeding season records: GWENT: bred on R.Usk at Llanwenarth, where 14 on 22 June included recently-fledged young; probably bred near Abergavenny, on R.Monnow near Llangua church and at Trefil Quarries; up to eight at Llanfihangel Gobion in breeding season and also present on R.Usk near Llanfoist bridge and Clytha walk; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Hirwaun Ind. Estate and possibly at Nant Moel Res.; present at Ogmore est. and Rhaslas Pond; CARMARTHEN: brood at Typicca; CEREDIGION: breeding season records at Llyn Pendam, on R.Ystwyth near Llanilar, on R.Teifi at Henllan, Teifi marshes and Glandyfi; BRECON: nested at Llangynidr; pairs at Crai Res., Talybont Res., Llangasty Pt and on the R.Llia near Maen Llia standing stone; four birds on R.Wye at Upper Gro (Glasbury) and singles at Hay Bridge and Builth Wells; present between Brynwern and Newbridge-on-Wye, and on the R.Tywi at Pant-y-clwydau; RADNOR: probably bred on R.Wye at Brynwern; MONTGOMERY: two territories at Llandinam Gravels NR; MEIRIONNYDD: 4-5 territories on R.Dyfi around Glandyfi and Yr Ynys; four on R.Mawddach, two on R.Dwyryd, three at eastern end of Llyn Trawsfynydd. two on Lower Tryweryn, Bala, in April and one pair here in June; pair at Canolfan Tryweryn; pair in Arenig Fawr area; present at Llyn Arenig Fach and on R.Dee at Rhug; CAERNARFON: nested at Llyn Cowlyd and present at three other lakes and at four locations along rivers; DENBIGH: possibly bred at Llyn Brenig and at Sontley pools.

Non-breeding: numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey in Wales have been stable for over 25 years, whereas they have declined in England and Scotland.

First winter period, all singles unless stated: GWENT: lower Wye valley on 15 Jan. and 13 Feb.; Coity Mountain on 27 Feb.; Llandegfedd Res. on 1 March; E.GLAMORGAN: Bendrick Rock/Cadoxton rivermouth

**Wetland Bird Survey: Common Sandpiper in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




in Jan. and March; two at Ogmore est. in Jan. and Feb.; GOWER: 10 coastal/river sites, mostly singles but two at R.Afan, Port Talbot; PEMBROKE: 3+ at Minwear on 4 Jan.; two on Cleddau est. in Jan.; four on Nevern est. in Jan. and two in Feb.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: two on Teifi est. in Jan. and one in Feb.; CEREDIGION: Dyfi est., mainly at Glandyfi, throughout; CAERNARFON: four at Borth-y-gest on 1 Jan.; Bangor on 22 Feb.; ANGLESEY: Church Island on 22-24 Feb. and two here on 20 March; FLINT: Connah's Quay NR on 20-29 Jan.; Queensferry on 6 Feb.; Mostyn on 8 March; on Clwyd est. on several dates between 4 Jan. and 4 March, and two here on 8 March.

Spring passage, max. counts >=3: E.GLAMORGAN: five at Swanbridge/Sully Bay on 19 April; GOWER: max. three on R.Neath at Ynysygerwyn on 16 April; CARMARTHEN: seven at Dredger Jetty, Pwll, on 14 April and nine here on 15th; PEMBROKE: five at Ford Pill-Carew on 15 April; CEREDIGION: five on Teifi est. on 14 April; five at Tanybwlch on 22 April; BRECON: four moved up R.Wye at Llysdinam on 26 April.

Post-breeding and autumn passage counts >=10: GWENT: 10 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 7 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 11 at Parc Taf Bargoed on 9 Aug.; max. 10 at Ogmore est. in July; GOWER: 11 near Brunel Docks on 14 July; 10+ at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 30 Aug., 40+ here on 2 Sept. and 25 on 12th; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Kidwelly Quay on 23 July, 12 here on 13 Aug. and 15 at both Kidwelly Marsh on 21st and Kidwelly Quay on 28th; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 22 on Teifi est. on 12 July; MEIRIONNYDD: five pairs with juveniles in Ynys Saltings area on 5 Aug., not necessarily all locally-bred birds; CAERNARFON: 10 on Bardsey on 21 July; ANGLESEY: 17 at Alaw est. on 2 July and 11 here on 9th; 14 at Cemlyn on 10 July.

Second winter period, all singles unless stated: GWENT: lower Wye valley on 19 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: four at Ogmore est. in Dec.; GOWER: 1-2 on Loughor est., R.Afan, Port Talbot Docks and Eglwys Nunydd Res. in late Nov./Dec.; PEMBROKE: West Williamston on 8 Nov.; Aber Fforest on 16 Nov.; Little Milford on 8 Dec.; Westfield Pill on 12 Dec.; Ford Pill–Carew on 13 Dec.; three on Nevern est. in Nov. and one in Dec.; Cleddau est. in Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: up to two on Teifi est.; CEREDIGION: Dyfi est., mainly at Glandyfi, throughout; RADNOR: Glasbury from Oct. to Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: Bontddu on 22 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Church Island on 19 Dec.; FLINT: two at Talacre on 12 Nov.; Queensferry on 5 and 27 Nov., and 25 Dec.; Clwyd est. on several dates from 11 Nov. to 15 Dec.

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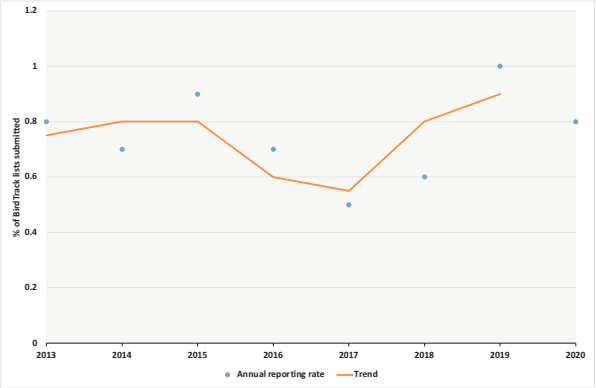
**GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus* PIBYDD GWYRDD

*Regular passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Amber WeBS alerts: -48% long-term and -30% medium term, but short-term increase is 93%. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 281 | 217 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 1% | 1% |

There is no Wetland Bird Survey trend for Wales, but that for the UK has been relatively stable since the mid-1990s, following a sharp increase. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales is low, but has remained steady in recent years.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Green Sandpiper in Wales 2013-20**




Monthly max. counts on R.Ely, E.GLAMORGAN.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R.Ely | 6 | 10 | 8 | 1 | | 3 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 3 |

Elsewhere in the first winter period, all singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Pwll Waun Cynon on 7 Feb.; Rumney Great Wharf on 13 Feb.; GOWER: 1-2 on R.Loughor, seen at Llanrhidian, Penclawdd and Castell-du; two near Neath est. on 15 March; PEMBROKE: wintered at Sealyham until April; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: two on Dyfi est.; ANGLESEY: three at RSPB Valley Wetlands in Jan.; Llanfachraeth from 30 Jan. to 16 March; Alaw est. on 3 Feb. and 3 March; DENBIGH: Pulford Brook, Trevalyn, on 25 Jan.; FLINT: Gwespyr, near Pt of Ayr, on 12 Jan.; R.Dee at Queensferry on 6 Feb.

Counts >4 on autumn passage: GOWER: 14 at Staffal Haegr on 14 July, 16 on 7 Aug. and nine here on 10 and 17 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: five at Kidwelly Marsh on 5 Sept.; CEREDIGION: up to eight at RSPB Ynys-hir in Aug. and up to four here in Sept.; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: small passage at Glandyfi, max. four on 9 Oct.; ANGLESEY: five at Alaw est. on 23 Sept.; DENBIGH: four at Nant Lewis Alyn, Denbigh, on 28 July.

Second winter period, singles unless stated: GWENT: Llanfihangel Gobion on 16 Nov. and three here on 28 Dec.; Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 1 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 8 Nov.; Ogmore est. on 15 Dec.; GOWER: at least one on R.Loughor in Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Caedelyn Farm, Llanedi, on 5 Dec.; three at Cilsan Bridge on 30 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Sealyham from 7 Nov. to end of year; Little Milford on 8 Dec.; CEREDIGION: two on flood-water from R.Teifi at Godre y Garth on 20 Dec.; CEREDIGION/MEIRIONNYDD: two on Dyfi est., and possibly four in Nov.; BRECON: Camlais Brook (Mynydd Illtyd) on 5-6 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: three at Dolydd Hafren on 25-31 Dec.; ANGLESEY: three at Gorad flood, Valley, from 21 Nov. into 2021; Inland Sea on 28 Dec.; DENBIGH: Holt on 10 Dec.; FLINT: Queensferry on 5 Nov.; Shotwick Lake on 16 Nov.; RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 16 Nov. and then at Connah's Quay NR to 27 Nov.; two at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft, on 15 Dec.

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**LESSER YELLOWLEGS** *Tringa flavipes* MELYNGOES BACH

*Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 26 previous records.*

GWENT: 1CY at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21-22 Sept.

**REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus* PIBYDD COESGOCH

*Localised and declining breeding species, now confined chiefly to saltmarshes. Abundant around the coast in winter, but 52% decline on non-estuarine sites (1997/98-2015/16). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3655 | 3037 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 15% | 13% |

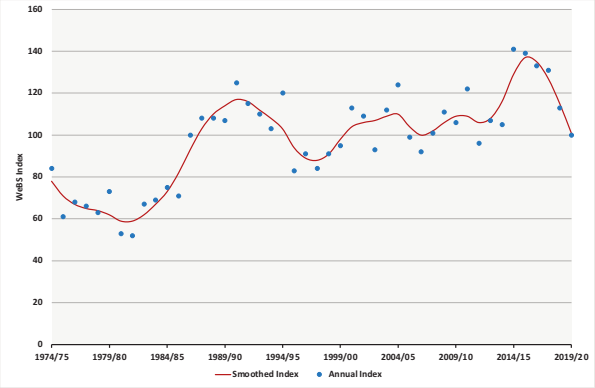
Breeding season: the principal sites, on the Dee and Dyfi estuaries, were not monitored this year owing to COVID-19 restrictions, but nesting at Newport Wetlands Reserve was a real bonus. GWENT: bred at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), where adult and two unfledged chicks seen on 8 June; E.GLAMORGAN: probably bred at Rumney Great Wharf; MONTGOMERY: one at a former nesting site near Llyn Mawr MWT reserve near Clatter, seen for a few days from 15 June; MEIRIONNYDD: three pairs displayed at Ynys Saltings on 13 March and up to four pairs on 8 May but high tides flooded out most nests, as usual.

Non-breeding: the annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales (p.89) was the second lowest in the last decade, 12% lower than 2018/19, but the 25-year trend has been relatively stable. That trend is very different to the index in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, all of which have recorded declines. Increases have occurred since 1994/95 at Traeth Lafan (+217%), the Conwy estuary (+73%) and in the Flintshire part of the Dee estuary (+38%), whereas numbers at many sites in South Wales have declined or remained stable.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=300 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=300 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peterstone | 65 | *c.*200 | *c.*300 | 4 | | 15 | 50 | 3 | 140 | 260 | 15+ | 4 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rhymney estuary | 150 | 100 | | 30 | | | 110 | 500 | 1500 | | 700+ | 1000 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclawdd/Dalton's Pt | 38 | 8 | 2 | 9 | | | 120 | | 172 | 300 | 35 | 11 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 351 | 272 | 241 | 88 | | 9 | 157 | 342 | 328 | 316 | 23 | 21 |
| Gwendraeth estuary | 1 | 27 | 150 | | | 15 | 200 | 355 | 456 | 101 | 150 | 200 |
| Lliedi estuary | | | | | | | *c.*200 | 321 | 341 | | | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 673 | 565 | 609 | | | 3 | 34 | | 382 | 453 | 427 | 658 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Foryd | 420 | 460 | 360 | | | | 30 | 60 | 140 | 280 | 470 | 210 |
| Traeth Lafan | 454 | *c.*1000 | 508 | 200 | | | | 100+ | 594 | 1015 | 1261 | 896 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 614 | 435 | 293 | | | 1 | 18 | 33 | 126 | 284 | 334 | 303 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Conwy | 400 | 417 | *c.*400 | P | | | 41 | 200+ | 276 | 611 | 410 | 457 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Point of Ayr | 250 | 50+ | 200 | | | | 35 | 150+ | 100 | 800 | 450 | 150 |
| Mostyn | 20 | | 351 | | | | | | 1490 | 154 | 46 | 60 |
| Flint saltmarsh | 77 | P | 25 | | | | 350 | 640 | 1100 | 220 | 22 | 112 |
| RSPB Oakenholt Marsh | 200 | 500 | 330 | | | | | 800 | 4600 | 2000 | 200 | 180 |
| Connah's Quay NR | 250 | 240 | 230+ | | | | | 2350 | 3334 | 3391 | 2000 | 70 |
| Clwyd estuary | *c.*320 | *c.*350 | 400+ | 56 | | 1 | 117 | *c.*200 | 87 | 224 | *c.*175 | *c.*300 |

**Wetland Bird Survey: Redshank in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**

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**WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola* PIBYDD GRAEAN

*Uncommon passage migrant, principally in the autumn but with a scattering of spring records.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 100 | 55 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

A total of 20 individuals, all single birds, was slightly above the 30 year average of 18.

Spring passage (to end of June): BRECON: Cefn Llechid pool on 2 June; ANGLESEY: Gorad flood, Valley, on 6 May.

Autumn passage: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 8 and 15 Aug.; GOWER: 1CY at Staffal Haegr on 7 and 15 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 1CY at Penclacwydd on 10-17 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 20 July; Gann est. on 27 July and 14 Sept.; Pencarnan Camp, St Davids, on 13 Aug.; Westfield Pill on 16 Aug.; Dale Airfield on 30 Aug.; CEREDIGION: Cors Caron on 29 July, and 12 and 14 Aug.; RSPB Ynys-hir on 14 Aug.; Llanrhystud on 15-18 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 8 Aug.; Traeth Dulas on 18 Oct.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 1 Aug.

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**SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus* PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

*Uncommon but regular passage migrant to coastal counties, mainly in autumn. Small numbers overwinter, chiefly in the Burry Inlet and Dee estuary. Wales Amber listed.*

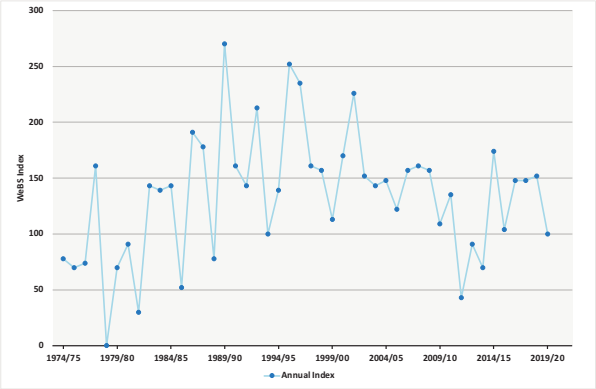
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 509 | 398 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 1% | 1% |

There is no smoothed Wetland Bird Survey trend for Wales, and the annual index value can vary widely between years, but the trend looks reasonably stable compared to a 48% decline in England since the peak in 2003/04. The only site with four or more birds was Connah's Quay NR/Oakenholt Marsh, FLINT, with an impressive total in September, but still way below the 180 there in August/September 1977.

Max. monthly counts at Connah's Quay NR and Oakenholt Marsh, FLINT.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Connah's Quay NR/Oakenholt | 7 | 5 | 1 | | | | | 17 | 35 | 30 | 17 | 8 |

**Wetland Bird Survey: Spotted Redshank in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




All records, including those in the table on p.89.

| *Monthly records* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 1 | | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| GOWER | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | 2 | | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| CEREDIGION | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 3 | | 1 | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | 3 | | 1+ | |
| ANGLESEY | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| DENBIGH | 2 | 1 | 1+ | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | |
| FLINT | 7 | 5 | 1 | | 1 | | | 17 | 35 | 30 | 17 | 8 |

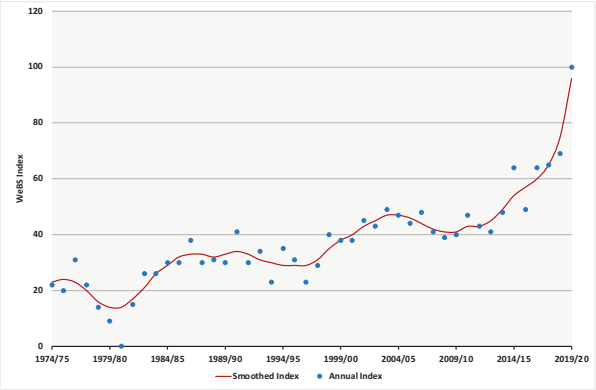
**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia* PIBYDD COESWYRDD

*Locally common in coastal areas on passage, chiefly in autumn, and over winter. Scarce inland. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **1142** | **1030** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **4%** | **4%** |

Non-breeding: it has been an extraordinary few years for the Greenshank Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales. It reached another all-time high in 2019/20, 28% higher than the previous year's record and 231% above its value 25 years previously. Only one other wader (Black-tailed Godwit) has increased by more over that period. The increase seems to have been driven by just a handful of sites, particularly the Burry Inlet, Traeth Lafan and Carmarthen Bay.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Greenshank in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=15 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=15 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 24 | 10 | 18 | 6 | | | 20 | 58 | 46 | 47 | 21 | 26 |
| Gwendraeth estuary | 15 | 10 | 9 | | | 1 | 6 | 18 | 51 | 29 | 4 | 4 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 55 | 43 | 56 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 48 | 63 | 50 | 30 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 12 | 13 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 8 | 20 | 13 | 8 |
| Foryd | 11 | 2 | 11 | | | | 7 | 15 | 17 | 14 | 12 | 10 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 7 | 11 | 7 | | | 1 | 14 | 18 | 17 | 23 | 3 | 11 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Connah's Quay NR | 7 | 7 | 8 | | | | | 49 | 27 | 33 | 24 | 11 |

Number of birds present in each county (including site counts above).

| *Monthly totals* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | | | | | | 1 | 15 | 5 | | | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | | 1 | | |
| GOWER | 4 | 2 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| CARMARTHEN | 41 | 24 | 30 | 8 | | 1 | 30 | 80 | 106 | 85 | 28 | 36 |
| PEMBROKE | 58 | 46 | 59 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 16 | 50 | 66 | 53 | 33 |
| CEREDIGION | 3 | 3 | | | 1 | | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| BRECON | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | 4 | | | | 1 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 9 | 2 | 2 |
| CAERNARFON | 25 | 15 | 26 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 41 | 31 | 37 | 25 | 18 |
| ANGLESEY | 11 | 14 | 11 | | | 1 | 20 | 30 | 26 | 32 | 8 | 20 |
| DENBIGH | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 9 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| FLINT | 10 | 14 | 12 | | | | 3 | 55 | 35 | 36 | 27 | 14 |

**KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla* GWYLAN GOESDDU

*Declining breeder in coastal areas from Gower to Caernarfonshire (-35% during 1986-2015). Large numbers occur offshore on passage. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 641 | 433 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 3% | 2% |

Breeding counts were affected by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Of the few colonies counted, all showed slight increases compared with the previous year, although the breeding population at Castlemartin peninsula, Pembrokeshire, is now extinct.

Breeding colony counts in 2020: 1976 AON *(cf*. 1797 in 2019)

| County/Site | AON | Previous count (year) |
|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | |
| Mumbles Pier | 152 | 141 (2019) |
| PEMBROKE | | |
| Castlemartin peninsula | 0 | 1 (2019) |
| Skomer | 1681 | 1451 (2019) |
| Ramsey | 85 | 83 (2019) |
| CAERNARFON | | |
| Bardsey | 143 | 121 (2019) |

Nest productivity (young/breeding pair): GOWER: 153 fledged at Mumbles Pier (>1.0); PEMBROKE: 0.23 on Ramsey, first year >0 since 2016; 0.64 at seven study plots on Skomer (*cf*. 0.68 in 2019 and five-year mean of 0.62, Zbijewska *et al*. 2020); CAERNARFON: 0.83 on Bardsey *(cf*. 0.84 in 2019 and 40% higher than 10-year mean).

Max. counts from coastal watchpoints.

| *Monthly counts* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mumbles Pier/Head | | 41 | 270 | 280 | *c*.450 | *c*.450 | 570 | 282 | 231 | 60 | 22 | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Skokholm | | | 422 | 38 | 52 | 121 | 457 | 1170 | 1481 | 1542 | 1154 | 243 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | | | 70 | 200 | 450 | 220 | 318 | 3252 | 5000 | 10,822 | | |
| Great Orme | | | | | | | *c*.100 | 300+ | 20+ | 79 | | |
| Rhos Point | | 6 | | | | | | *c*.165 | 2 | 8+ | | |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Point Lynas | | | | | | | | 7500 | | | 2000 | |
| Cemlyn | | | | | | | | 1840 | 800 | | 1260 | |

Notable non-breeding records: GOWER: 350 at Port Eynon on 23 Aug. and 200 here on 26th; CARMARTHEN: *c*.150 at Cefn Sidan on 31 Aug. and *c*.50 here on 4 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 1000 off Fishguard Harbour on 23 Aug.; 300 off Teifi est. on 18 Aug.; a particularly large movement of 15,000 off Strumble Head on 26 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 1826 passed Mwnt on 22 Aug., 4438 here on 26 Aug. and 1599 on 25 Sept.; at Ynyslas, an abundance of small fish pulled in good numbers in Sept. including 1150 on 13th, 6000 on 15th and 4500 on 17th; 1000 off Llanrhystud on 11 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 50 off Penllyn, Tywyn, on 15 Sept.; 100 at Llwyngwril on 29 Sept.; 100 off Tywyn on 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 350 off Dwyfor est. on 15 Aug. and 200 here on 20 Sept.; 50 at Afonwen on 2 Aug. included two birds ringed in Brittany; 200+ in Llandudno Bay on 21 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 1000 roosted on Ynys Dulas on 20 Aug.; DENBIGH: max. *c*.20 off Rhos-on-Sea on 24 Aug. and 20+ here on 26th.

**SABINE'S GULL** *Xema sabini* GWYLAN SABINE

*Uncommon visitor to the coast in autumn, numbers vary according to the frequency of westerly gales.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 11 | 20 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Min. 46, slightly above the 2010-19 average: PEMBROKE: 13 passed Strumble Head on 26 Aug. (11 adults, one 1CY and one unaged), 1CY off Skomer on 26 Aug.; adult off Skokholm on 30 Aug.; 1CY off Whitesands Bay on 2 Nov.; CEREDIGION: adult off Mwnt on 22 Aug., two adults and 1CY here on 26th and four 1CY on 5 Sept.; 1CY at Ynyslas on 7 Sept.; 1CY at Borth on 10 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 2CY off Bardsey with Kittiwake flock on 3 Aug., later re-found at Afonwen on 7th; adult off Bardsey on 30 Sept. and 1CY here on 6 Oct.; one off Porth Ysgaden on 4 Sept.; one off Llanfairfechan on 5 Sept.; one off the Great Orme on 7 Sept.; one off Bangor Pier on 4 Nov.; ANGLESEY: four adults passed Pt Lynas and two passed Cemlyn on 26 Aug.; adult passed Bull Bay and Cemlyn on 28 Aug.; four adults at Pt Lynas on 5 Sept.; 1CY passed Bull Bay and South Stack on 5 Sept.; 1CY at Cemlyn on 6 Sept.; one passed Pt Lynas on 26 Sept.

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**BONAPARTE'S GULL** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* GWYLAN BONAPARTE

*Rare visitor from North America. WBRC: 26 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: 3CY on Teifi est. on 23 June; 3CY on Gann est. on 31 Oct., intermittently to 18 Nov.

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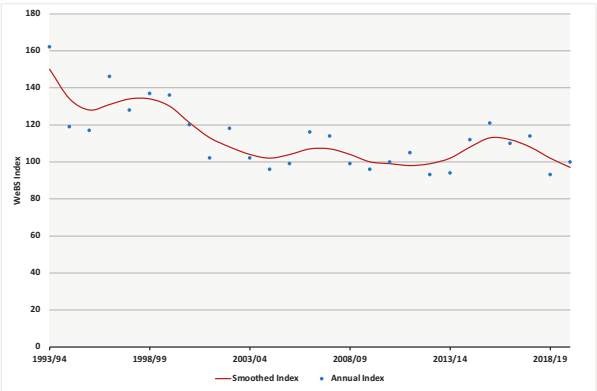
**BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* GWYLAN BENDDU

*Locally common breeding species. Abundant and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 6954 | 6010 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 31% | 29% |

Breeding (AON) and productivity (fledged young/breeding pair): CARMARTHEN: 405 pairs at Penclacwydd; BRECON: the last breeding colony, at Brechfa Pool, ceased to hold breeding birds after failure of 30-50 nests in 2018; MONTGOMERY: *c.*180 AON at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas (1.67); ANGLESEY: 218 AON at Cemlyn (0.31); FLINT: 315 AON at Shotton Steelworks (0.97).

**Wetland Bird Survey: Black-headed Gull in Wales 1993/94-2019/20**




Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales shows a long-term decline; it was 28% lower in 2019/20 than 25 years previously, a rate similar to that in England. Site totals can vary considerably between years, however. The sites currently holding the greatest numbers show a range of trends over that period: Burry Inlet (-33%), Welsh part of the Severn estuary (+253%), Flintshire side of the Dee estuary (+22,600%), Traeth Lafan (+594%) and the Cleddau estuary (-57%).

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=1000 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=1000 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay | 540 | 658 | 340 | 265 | 28 | 1 | 250 | 930 | 1010 | 350 | 400 | 1150 |
| Cardiff Bay heliport | 50 | 100 | | | 2 | | 2000 | 300 | 5000 | | 1 | |
| Rumney Great Wharf | 400 | 400 | 500 | | | 30 | 1 | 400 | 2000 | 6 | 1 | |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llanrhidian | | | | | | | | 1500 | 144 | 186 | | |
| Margam Sands | 400 | *c.*2500 | 30 | | | | | | 130 | | 216 | 130 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 357 | 307 | 650 | 1053 | 658 | 1314 | 647 | 123 | 172 | 242 | 215 | 189 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 756 | 802 | 204 | | | | | | 1623 | 2332 | 498 | 450 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | | | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 46 | 39 | 5034 | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 80 | *c.*500 | 46 | 8 | 50 | | 400+ | 100+ | 1001 | 700+ | 158 | *c.*20 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lleweni watermeadows | 474 | 2450 | 66 | | 2 | | | 5 | | 1274 | 37 | 356 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Flint | 125+ | | 40 | | | | | 1800 | 110 | | 147 | 35 |
| Clwyd estuary | 453 | 277 | 14 | 1 | 42 | 145 | 254 | 338 | 227 | 1654 | 395 | 286 |
| White Sands | 400 | | 54 | | | | | 2000 | 600 | 250 | 150 | |

Other large counts >=1000: GOWER: *c.*1000 at Salthouse Pt on 26 July; 1000+ at Crymlyn Burrows on 22 Feb.; PEMBROKE: 1500 at Carew on 18 Oct.; 1000 at Gann est. on 12 Dec.

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: Orange 248A at Burry Port Harbour on 6 July was ringed as a nestling at Blashford Lakes, Hampshire, on 15 June 2015; Blue T45H at Kidwelly Quay on 21 July was ringed as an adult in Poland on 8 May 2020; White T6TM at Burry Port Harbour on 21 July was ringed as a chick in Poland on 8 June 2011; CEREDIGION: White 2042 at Aberystwyth on 29 Jan. and 5 Feb. was ringed as a chick at Lough Ree, Co. Longford, Ireland, in June 2019.

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**LITTLE GULL** *Hydrocoloeus minutus* GWYLAN FECHAN

*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to the coast Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **85** | **55** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

An improvement on the poor 2019, despite spring lockdown, with a min. 97 birds. The largest counts were in North Wales, especially in north Cardigan Bay, including at least 11 off Criccieth, CAERNARFON, in February. All single birds unless stated:

First winter period/spring migration: E.GLAMORGAN: adult at Cardiff Bay on 4-5 March and 2CY here on 19 April; GOWER: Swansea Barrage on 4 and 6 Jan.; 2CY at Pwll y Froga on 7 June; CARMARTHEN: 3CY at Penclacwydd on 20 June; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. on 10 Jan.; CEREDIGION: two 2CY at Aberystwyth on 26 Feb. and one here on 27th; 2CY at Gwbert on 7 March; 2CY at Aberystwyth on 13 March; MEIRIONNYDD: adult at Llwyngwril on 23 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: two at Glaslyn Marshes on 4 May; CAERNARFON: off Criccieth during 9-29 Feb., including 11 on 9th and five on 15th and 29th; eight off Llanfairfechan on 12 Feb.; Porthmadog on 29 April; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 11 Feb., FLINT: 2CY at Gronant on 5 March.

Autumn migration/second winter period: GWENT: Llandegfedd Res. on 7 July; 1CY at Peterstone Wentlooge on 15 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: adult at Newton beach on 29 Sept.; GOWER: Swansea Barrage on 24 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 1CY at Pembrey Harbour on 5 Sept.; PEMBROKE: off Strumble Head on 21 Aug., two on 22nd and three on 26th, singles on 24 Sept. and 3 Oct.; Fishguard Harbour on 25 Aug.; Gann est. on 24 Sept., 31 Oct. and 14 Nov.; 1CY at Skokholm on 14 and 17 Oct. and single adults on 1 Nov. and on four dates during 15-25 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 1CY off Mwnt on 23 Aug. and four here on 3 Sept.; 1CY at Ynyslas on 21 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: two at Broadwater on 12 July; two at Fairbourne on 30 July; three 1CY at Artro est. on 6 Aug. and another 1CY off Mochras on the same date; four at Penllyn, Tywyn, on 15 Sept.; four (three adults and a 1CY) at Tonfanau on 29 Sept. and three 1CY at Llwyngwril on the same date; eight at Tywyn on 12 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: Glaslyn Marshes on 10 Aug.; CAERNARFON: adult and 2CY off Bardsey on 20 Sept. and 1CY here on 10 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 26-27 Aug. (1CY), 2 Sept. (1CY), 19 and 28 Nov.; Pt Lynas on 26 and 29 Aug. (adult) and 26 Sept.

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**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

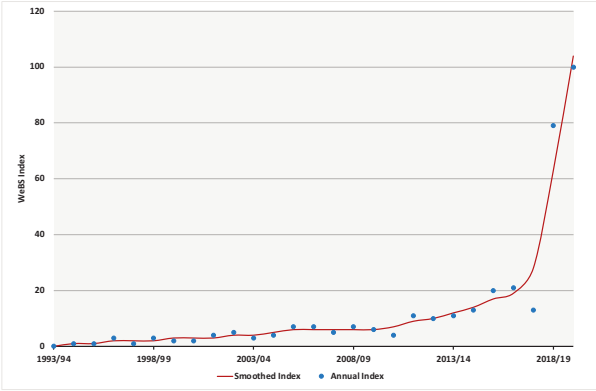
*Increasingly common visitor, chiefly to coastal counties, especially in late summer. Small numbers summer (RBBP: two pairs in 2019) and occasionally breed. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 866 | 823 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 3% | 3% |

Breeding: CARMARTHENSHIRE: pair nested at Penclacwydd but no eggs hatched; MONTGOMERY: subadult in the Black-headed Gull colony at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas for three weeks from mid-April to early May; ANGLESEY: no breeding at colonies monitored; FLINT: five of 13 AON at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands were in the Welsh part of the reserve.

Non-breeding: the exponential growth in the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales continued to yet another record high, 65% above the previous year and more than four times the value just three years earlier. The central CEREDIGION coast became the first area to record 1000 on a single day in Wales, in August, while 11 other sites recorded counts of more than 100. County records were also set in E.GLAMORGAN, CARMARTHEN and ANGLESEY.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Mediterranean Gull in Wales 1993/94-2019/20**



Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=30 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=30 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kenfig and Sker | 15 | 2 | | | | | 3 | 22 | 20 | 31 | 2 | 19 |
| Porthcawl to Rest Bay | 7 | 4 | 6 | | | | 1 | 8 | 10 | | 30 | 13 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bracelet Bay | 58 | 28 | 27 | | | 8 | 113 | 73 | 71 | 100 | 80 | 23 |
| Port Eynon | 18 | 2 | | | | | 34 | 132 | 345 | 13 | 2 | 7 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | | | 7 | 14 | 5 | 137 | 16 | | 47 | | | |
| Pwll | | 2 | | | | 107 | 250 | 17 | 73 | 10 | 15 | |
| Burry Port/Pembrey | | | | 2 | | 41 | 253 | 142 | 33 | 29 | | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Angle Bay | | 1 | | | | | | 14 | 60 | 34 | | |
| Gann estuary | 20 | 20 | 25 | 3 | | 4 | 7 | 2 | 28 | 52 | 28 | 79 |
| Skokholm | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 97 | 190 | 104 |
| Nevern estuary | 12 | 4 | 3 | | | 5 | 30 | 11 | 8 | 15 | 7 | 5 |
| Teifi estuary | 1 | 3 | 5 | | | 4 | 70 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 9 | |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llanon/Llanrhystud/Llansantffraed | | | | | | | 160 | 1000 | 180 | 500 | | |
| Aberystwyth | | | | | | 15 | 36 | 36 | 76 | 30 | | |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alaw estuary | | | | | | | 109 | 65 | 35 | | | |
| Inland Sea | | | | | | | | 136 | 52 | | | |

Other counts >=30: E. GLAMORGAN: 40 at Nottage Fields, Porthcawl, on 8 Dec. was the highest ever count in the recording area; GOWER: 31 at Sketty Lane playing field on 19 July; 42 at Ashleigh Road playing field on 29 July and 74 here on 2 Aug.; 600+ at Blackpill on 9 Sept. and 380 here on 12th; 39 at Oxwich Bay on 10 Sept.; CARMARTHENSHIRE: 43 at Sandy WP on 1 Sept.; 415 at Llanelli Beach on 14 Sept. was a new county record; PEMBROKE: 42 at Blackbridge, Milford Haven, on 29 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 41 off Mwnt on 23 Aug.; 30 at Ynyslas on 17 Sept.; 40 at Aberaeron on 14 Oct.; 110 at Llangwyryfon on 22 Oct., 146 here on 23rd and 115 on 25th; CAERNARFON: peak counts on Bardsey: 43 on 2 Oct., 42 on 22nd, 71 on 23rd and 54 on 26th; peak counts on Llŷn: 70 at Mynydd Rhiw on 30 July, 138 at Afonwen on 2 Aug. and 52 here on 7th, 90 at Porth Neigwl on 4 Aug., 65 at Dwyfor est. on 15th, 65 at Porth Ysgaden on 15 Aug. and 132 here on 31st, and 42 at Porthdinllaen/Nefyn on 7 Sept., 40+ here on 10th and 50+ on 11th; ANGLESEY: 36 at Cemlyn on 3 Sept.

**Mediterranean x Black headed Gull**
GWENT: one at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 17-18 Oct.

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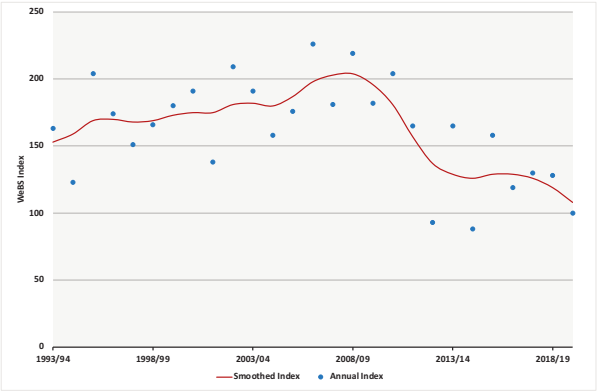
**COMMON GULL** *Larus canus* GWYLAN GWEUNYDD

*Fairly common winter and passage visitor, especially to northeast Wales. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **1615** | **1364** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **7%** | **6%** |

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales continues to decline, to a level 47% lower than its 2008/09 peak and 32% lower than 25 years ago. The Dee estuary is the most important WeBS site, but in Jan.-March, it is clear that the whole DENBIGH and FLINT coasts hold large numbers of birds, staging ahead of their return

**Wetland Bird Survey: Common Gull in Wales 1993/94-2019/20**




to Scandinavia. By contrast in the mid-1990s, the most important were Burry Inlet (-77% since 1994/95-1998/99), Swansea Bay (-71%) and Dolwen Reservoir, DENBIGH (not counted since 2006/07). It is interesting to note numbers at Pembrey Harbour, CARMARTHEN, and Bugeilyn, MONTGOMERY, in June.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=250 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=250 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pwll | | 1000 | 2000 | | 5 | 6 | | | | 17 | 750 | |
| Pembrey Harbour | | 50 | 1500 | | | 39 | 26 | 18 | 1 | | | |
| Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Pt | 25 | 150 | 850 | | | | | | | | 122 | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nevern estuary | 242 | 256 | 285 | | | | | | | | | 191 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lleweni watermeadows | 21 | 420 | 284 | | 2 | | | | | 165 | | 65 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gronant | *c.*1750 | *c.*2000 | c.300 | | | | 7 | *c.*110 | *c.*260 | 160 | 500+ | *c.*350 |
| Cilcain North | | | 18 | | | | | | | 540 | 520 | 280 |
| Clwyd estuary | *c.*160 | *c.*180 | c.340 | | | | 6 | *c.*20 | 17 | 122+ | 80 | P |

Other counts >=250 or other interesting records: GWENT: 350 near Osbaston on 10 Feb., 400 here on 14th and 250 on 17th; 280 at Magor reserve on 22 Dec.; GOWER: 300 at Llanrhidian Marsh on 21 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 310 at Machynys on 6 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 350 at Wiseman's Bridge on 4 Feb.; 350 at Gann est. on 14 Feb.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 500 on Teifi est. on 6 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 400 at Aberystwyth on 29 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: eight at Bugeilyn on 14 June; CAERNARFON: 400+ at Morfa Aber on 11 Aug.; DENBIGH: 1000 at Ty'n-y-llyn on 17 Jan.; 1300 at Llanddulas on 20 Feb. and 2000 here on 7 March; 2800 between Llanddulas and Pensarn on 10 March; FLINT: 390 at Trelogan on 2 Feb.; 1000 at Ffynnongroyw on 20 Sept.; 550+ at Cwm on 7 Oct.; 500 at Hendy Ponds on 17 Dec.; 1298 over Pantymwyn towards the Clwydian hills on 26 Dec.

Ringing: DENBIGH: the count at Llanddulas on 20 Feb. included two colour-ringed in Norway.

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**RING-BILLED GULL** *Larus delawarensis* GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

*Scarce (and recently declining) visitor from North America. WBRC: 421 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: adult at Llys-y-fran Res. from 28 Nov. 2019 to 23 Feb. and again from 25 Nov.; 2CY at Gann est. on 4 and 6 Jan. The Llys-y-fran bird has been wintering there since 2006.

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FAWR

*Fairly common and widespread in coastal areas in winter. Widely distributed breeding bird along rocky coastlines in single pairs or small colonies. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.*

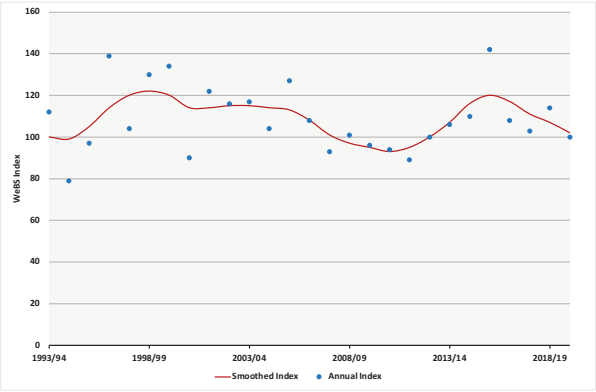
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3525 | 3243 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 18% | 15% |

Breeding: GOWER: nest at The Quays, Briton Ferry; nest on a factory roof near Brunel Dock with one chick on 10 June; PEMBROKE: 83 AON on Skokholm (*cf*. 86 in 2019); 112 AON on Skomer (*cf*. 108 in 2019); MEIRIONNYDD: pair bred at Llyn Oerfel; CAERNARFON: 2 AON on Bardsey (*cf*. 2 in 2019).

Nest productivity (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 1.40 on Skokholm *(cf*. 1.43 in 2019) (Brown & Eagle 2020); 1.42 on Skomer (Zbijewska *et al*. 2020); CAERNARFON: 1.00 on Bardsey, 24.5% above the 10-year mean.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has remained fairly stable for the last 25 years. The Dee estuary, Carmarthen Bay and the coast at Freshwater West, PEMBROKE, have been the sites with the highest counts in the last decade.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Great Black-backed Gull in Wales 1993/94-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=30 birds at least once during the year.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point | 58 | 37 | 35 | | | | | | | 83 | 56 | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Skokholm | | | 88 | 150 | 128 | 105 | 111 | 144 | 172 | 91 | 117 | 34 |
| Blucks Pool/Freshwater W. | 45 | 18 | | | | | | 160 | 15 | 9 | 11 | |
| Gann estuary | | | 50 | | | | | | 171 | | 100+ | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | | | 9 | 12 | 14 | 10 | 59 | 54 | 23 | 15 | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 9 | *c*.15 | 12 | 2 | | | | | *c*.50 | *c*.10 | 12 | 7 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Dulas | 2 | 10 | 4 | | | 6 | 3 | 14 | 41 | 15 | 12 | 6 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gronant | 12 | *c*.30 | 19 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 16 | 14 | 33 | 47 | 24+ | 28 |
| Point of Ayr | 2 | | 6 | 6 | | P | 6 | 40 | 33 | 32 | 32 | 7 |
| Clwyd estuary | 3 | 11 | 3 | | | | 14 | 33+ | 32 | 28 | 6 | P |

Other counts >=30: GWENT: 31 at Llandegfedd Res. on 18 Jan.; GOWER: *c*.50 at Crymlyn Burrows on 11 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 50 at Dale Airfield on 2 and 22 Aug.; 200 on Skomer on 11 Sept.; 77 at Marloes Mere on 17 Sept.; 100 at Little Haven on 15 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 45 at Mwnt on 22 Aug.; 48 at Ynyslas on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 36 at Traeth Dulas on 5 Dec.

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**GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus* GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

*Uncommon but regular visitor to coastal areas of Wales, chiefly in mid-winter.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 6 | 16 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

As few as nine individuals during the year, half the average in the 2010-19 decade. All singles unless stated.

First winter period: E. GLAMORGAN: 2CY at Sker Pt on 13 Feb.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 2CY on Teifi est. on 4-6 Jan. and on 8 March; CAERNARFON: Llandudno on 10 Jan.

Second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 28 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 1CY at St Davids Head on 16 Nov.; 1CY on Skokholm on 18 and 20 Nov., probably same on Skomer on 19th; 1CY at Llys-y-fran Res. on 29 Nov.; 1CY at Marloes Mere on 13 Dec.; 1CY at Monkstone Pt, Tenby, on 14 Dec.; quite possibly all the same individual; MEIRIONNYDD: Ynys Saltings on 12 and 17 Nov. and 14 and 29 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Porth Felen on 26 Dec.

2018 E.GLAMORGAN: at least 3CY or older, at East Aberthaw on 14 April.

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**ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucoides* GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

*Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 4 | 40 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

A better year with up to 14 individuals (*cf.* seven in 2019 but average 26 during 2010-19). All single 2CY birds unless stated:

First winter period: PEMBROKE: Fishguard Harbour on 9 Jan.; adult at Penberi Res. on 9 Feb.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 7-8 March; BRECON: roosted at Llangorse Lake from 15 Jan. to 10 Feb.; CAERNARFON: Llandudno on 22 March.

Second winter period: GOWER: 1CY at Blackpill on 28 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 1CY in Ramsey Sound on 8 Oct.; Penberi Res. on 12 Nov.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1CY at Teifi est. on 17 Nov. and 30 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Morfa Conwy on 15 July; Bangor on 27 Nov.; Penrhyn Bay on 30 Dec.

***L.g. kumlieni*** **(Kumlien's Gull / Gwylan yr Arctig Kumlien)**

*Rare winter visitor from North America. WBRC: nine previous records.*

GOWER: 2CY at Port Talbot, on 22 Feb. and at Aberavon from 23 Feb. to 14 March.

**HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus* GWYLAN PENWAIG

*Fairly common breeder in coastal areas, declining on natural nest sites but increasing on rooftops. Widespread in winter, including inland. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 11518 | 10544 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 51% | 52% |

Breeding: PEMBROKE: 301 AON on Skokholm (*cf*. 301 in 2019); 298 AON on Skomer (*cf*. 297 in 2019); CAERNARFON: 423 AON on Bardsey (*cf*. 345 in 2019).

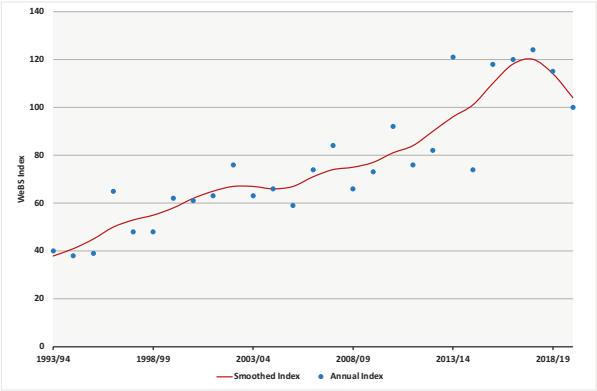
Nest productivity (young/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 0.33 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.69 in 2019) (Brown & Eagle 2020); 0.25 on Skomer, the lowest since 2002 and significantly lower than historic average of 0.65 (Zbijewska *et al*. 2020); CAERNARFON: 0.54 on Bardsey, 16.3% below the 10-year mean based on a sample of 109 nests in the North End colony.

A minimum of 158 AON were counted in at least 21 rooftop locations in five counties:

| County/Site | AON | | County/Site | AON |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | GOWER | |
| Colchester Avenue, Penylan | 8 | | Endeavour Close Trading Estate | 11 |
| Western Avenue Retail Park, Gabalfa | 7 | | Port Talbot town centre | 3 |
| Unite Student Flats, Gabalfa | 2 | | Giants Grave, Briton Ferry | 8 |
| Llanishen | 1 | | Llandarcy | 7 |
| Hirwaun Ind. Estate | 21 | | Brunel Docks, Briton Ferry | 5 |
| Waterton Ind., Bridgend | 2 | | Near Brynmill Park | 1 |
| Treoes, Bridgend | 1 | | Southward Lane, Langland | 1 |
| GOWER | | | Lidl, Gorseinon | 1 |
| Afan Way, Port Talbot | 2 | | CARMARTHEN | |
| Port Talbot Docks | 30 | | Spilman Street, Carmarthen | 1 |
| Baglan Ind. Estate | 13+ | | DENBIGH | |
| The Quays, Briton Ferry | 23 | | Rhuthun | 10 |

Other breeding records: GOWER: single pairs at Butterslade, Devils Truck and Rhossili, and bred on Sandfields Estate and at Campion Gardens & Clyne Common; CARMARTHEN: pair fledged two young on a boat in the west harbour at Burry Port; MONTGOMERY: small numbers nested on low factory roofs near Welshpool railway station and near Morrisons in Newtown; MEIRIONNYDD: at least 2-3 pairs around Rhiwbryfdir/Blaenau Ffestiniog but no nests located.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Herring Gull in Wales 1993/94-2019/20**




Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales fell for the second consecutive year, following a sustained increase over 25 years.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=1000 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=1000 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay/Wetlands | 600 | 250 | 90 | 80 | 65 | 52 | 103 | 110 | 122 | 5 | 1500 | 1000 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whiteford | | | | | | 1500 | 411 | 1000 | *c.*750 | 610 | 158 | |
| Margam Sands | 278 | 4000+ | 186 | | | | | 300 | 200 | | 341 | |
| Baglan Bay | 2263 | 850 | | | | | 15 | 1800 | 450 | 1100 | 451 | 2000 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 6500 | 8000 | 1500 | 50 | 56 | 13 | 37 | 192 | 31 | 275 | 100 | 201 |
| Cefn Sidan/Tywyn Point | 400 | 161 | 2463 | | | 24 | | | | 49 | 158 | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | | | 357 | 420 | 1400 | 600 | 712 | 726 | 429 | 431 | | |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kinmel Bay | 365 | 1640 | 295 | 88 | 145 | 154 | 95 | 79 | 89 | 59 | 387 | 96 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clwyd estuary | 262 | 385 | 210 | 145 | 144 | 241 | 227 | 254 | 352 | 334 | 1423 | 227 |
| Gronant | 204 | 2500+ | 656 | 117 | 166 | 174 | 740 | 350 | 460 | 283 | 356 | 412 |
| Point of Ayr | 50 | P | 200 | 35+ | | P | 1000 | 4000 | 4000 | 200+ | 215 | 150 |

Other counts >=1000 or interesting records: GOWER: 6000+ at Crymlyn Burrows on 4 Jan. and 1500+ here on 22 Feb.; *c.*1300 at Neath est. on 29 Jan.; 1090 at Knab Rock/Bracelet Bay on 30 Nov.; 1050+ at Rhossili Beach on 30 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 1000 at Wiseman's Bridge on 3 Feb.; 1200 near Manorbier on 4 Feb.; CEREDIGION: 1750 at Llangwyryfon on 19 Dec.; BRECON: 1334 roosted at Pontsticill Res. on 23 Nov. and 1704 here on 16 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 1200 west across Llandudno Bay on 26 Nov.

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: colour-ringed bird at Penclacwydd on 25 Feb. had been ringed as a chick at St James's Hospital, Dublin, Ireland, on 6 July 2017.

***L. a. argentatus*** **(Scandinavian Herring Gull / Gwylan Penwaig Llychlyn)**
*Probably a regular winter visitor to Wales but under-recorded.*
CARMARTHEN: one at Brunel Dock on 22 Jan.; one at Blackpill on 24 Sept.; 44 at Castell-du, Upper Loughor est., on 1 Aug.

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**CASPIAN GULL** *Larus cachinnans* GWYLAN BONTAIDD
*Rare visitor from eastern Europe and central Asia. WBRC: 10 previous records.*

Five in a year increases the number of records by 50% and surpasses the totals of four in 2017 and 2018.

E.GLAMORGAN: 2CY at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 12 Jan.; 2CY at Cardiff Bay on 8 April; 1CY at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 3 Sept.; 1CY in Cardiff Bay from 28 Nov. into 2021; PEMBROKE: adult on Gann est. on 11 and 23 Nov., and a different adult (yellow-ringed X290 from Germany) on 20-22 Nov., which had previously been at Llanrhystud, CEREDIGION, in March 2017 and Nevern est. in July 2017.

**YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus michahellis* GWYLAN GOESFELEN

*Uncommon and irregular winter visitor to coastal areas, especially East Glamorgan and Gower.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **99** | **86** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Most records were in south Wales, and it remains uncommon in the north, although at least 18 individuals (assessed from photographs) off Bardsey, Caernarfonshire, between 28 July and 7 August was unprecedented.

Number of birds present in each county.

| *Monthly totals* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *June* | *July* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | 11 | 7 |
| Cosmeston Lakes CP | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | 4 | 2 | | | | 1 |
| elsewhere | | 2 | | | | | 1 | 4 | 3 | | | 3 |
| GWENT | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| GOWER | | | 1 | | | | | | 4 | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | 1 | 7 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| PEMBROKE | 8 | 6 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 8 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | |
| BRECON | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | 1-2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| MONTGOMERY | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | min. 18 | | | | | |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | |

All records in BRECON were at Llangorse Lake and all those in CAERNARFON were on Bardsey

Ringing: PEMBROKE: 1CY at Fishguard Harbour on 1 Sept. had been ringed as a nestling in Switzerland.

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**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FACH

*Breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **5984** | **5511** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **26%** | **28%** |

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: 1830 AON on Flat Holm (*cf*. 2055 in 2019); PEMBROKE: 880 AON on Skokholm (*cf*. 1028 in 2019); 7668 AON on Skomer (*cf*. 5216 in 2019); CAERNARFON: 169 AON on Bardsey (*cf*. 164 in 2019).

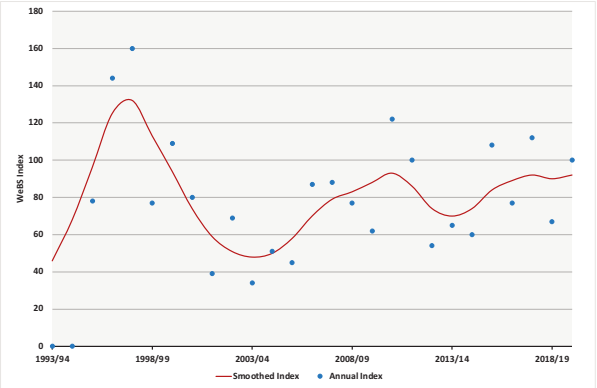
Nest productivity (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 0.12 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.27 in 2019), the lowest in the last five years, continuing the trend of reduced breeding success (Brown & Eagle 2020); 0.24 on Skomer, a marked decrease since 2019, but consistent with the trends of low productivity since 1980 (Zbijewska *et al.* 2020); CAERNARFON: 0.5 on Bardsey (32.7% higher than the 10-year mean) based on a sample of 36 nests in the North End.

Min. 124 AON on rooftops at 22 locations in five vice-counties.

| County/Site | AON | | County/Site | AON |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | GOWER | |
| Western Avenue, Gabalfa | 16 | | Giants Grave factory | 6 |
| Colchester Avenue, Penylan | 10 | | The Quays, Briton Ferry | 6 |
| Llanishen | 5 | | Port Talbot Docks | 20 |
| Cyncoed | 2 | | Port Talbot Town Centre | 2 |
| Liberty Living student flats, Gabalfa | 2 | | Afan Way | 8 |
| Hirwaun Ind. Estate | 13 | | Endeavour Way | 5 |
| Barry, Sully | 5 | | Baglan Ind. Estate | 9+ |
| Penarth | 3 | | Llandarcy | 5 |

Other rooftop breeding records, single nests unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: three sites; GOWER: four sites; PEMBROKE: Pembroke Dock Ind. Estate; MONTGOMERY: a few pairs at Potters, near Welshpool Station; DENBIGH: nest in Rhuthun.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Lesser Black-backed Gull in Wales 1993/94-2019/20**




Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey annual index for Wales oscillates, but the overall trend is stable. Llys-y-fran Reservoir, PEMBROKE, remains the most important site by some margin, with peaks of 3000 birds in Jan. and 5000 in Nov., and a five-year average that is more than eight times higher than the sites with the next highest counts: the FLINT side of the Dee estuary, Burry Inlet and Cleddau estuary.

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=200 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=200 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay | 400 | 150 | 50 | 135 | 90 | 93 | 127 | 220 | 170 | 40 | 300 | 20 |
| Flat Holm | | | | 200 | 500 | 300 | 200 | 100 | | 4 | 1 | |
| Llanishen/Lisvane Reservoirs | 50 | 104 | 65 | 100 | 25 | 90 | 200 | 250 | 150 | 35 | 120 | 92 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 20 | 244 | 180 | 70 | 38 | 26 | 37 | 60 | 30 | 59 | 11 | 19 |
| Dryslwyn/Cilsan | 1 | 200 | 73 | | | | | | | | 30 | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 92 | 59 | 189 | | | | | | 170 | 359 | 135 | 142 |
| Skokholm | | | 864 | 798 | 855 | 535 | 610 | 429 | 10 | 12 | 42 | 19 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 1835 | 1000+ | 900 | | | | | | 527 | 260 | 1270+ | 300+ |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | | | 43 | 150 | 320 | 250 | 93 | 84 | 59 | 25 | | |

Other counts >=200: E.GLAMORGAN: 259 at Mynydd Eglwysilan on 11 Aug.; 200 at Rumney meadows, Cardiff, on 28 March; PEMBROKE: 500 at Landshipping-Coedcanlas on 11 April; 254 at Druidston on 26 Aug.; 300 at Little Milford on 6 Oct.; 500 at Little Haven on 15 Nov.; 5000 at Llys-y-fran Res. on 15 Nov.; BRECON: 500 at Brechfa Pool on 10 Jan.; up to 200 on farmland in the lower Honddu valley on several dates in Feb. and March; up to 200 south each evening over Brecon in late May; 300 in a late-sown barley crop at Llansantffraid on 3 July; MONTGOMERY: 370 at Dylife on 27 July; 300 near Meifod on 23 Oct.; max. 600 at Dolydd Hafren on 2 Nov.

Ringing: CARMARTHEN: two colour-ringed birds at Penclacwydd had been ringed at Stoke Orchard, Gloucestershire: one seen on 31 Jan. had been ringed on 16 Feb. 2008; one on 22 March had been ringed on 4 Dec. 2004; BRECON: 3CY with a white ring (K=Z), at Libanus on 7 May had been ringed as a 1CY on a rooftop in Llanishen, Cardiff, on 9 Oct. 2018; ANGLESEY: female (named Europa) fitted with a GPS tag in Belfast, Co. Down, in May 2019 overwintered in Cádiz, Spain, until 11 March 2020. On her journey north, visited Huelva, Lisbon, Póvoa de Varzim, A Coruña, Jersey and Guernsey. After leaving the Channel Islands on 29 April, travelled across England and Wales, crossing the Irish Sea from Holyhead and returning to Belfast on 3 May.

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**CASPIAN TERN** *Hydroprogne caspia* MOR-WENNOL GAWRAIDD

*Rare visitor, breeding no closer than the northern Baltic Sea. BBRC: 11 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: adult at Gann est. on 4 Aug.

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**SANDWICH TERN** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* MOR-WENNOL BIGDDU

*Passage migrant to most coastal areas. One breeding site (max. 2650 AON in 2015). Scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 781 | 619 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 3% | 2% |

Breeding: ANGLESEY: 1984 AON at Cemlyn *(cf*. 1200-1500 pairs in 2019) and a max. 1042 fledglings counted.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales (not shown) was 35% lower than the previous year, but the smoothed trend remains (just) within the limits of its range since 1994. The largest WeBS counts away from Cemlyn were on the Dee estuary (1100 but only 196 on the Flintshire side), Burry Inlet (164) and Traeth Lafan (107).

Counts >50 away from Cemlyn: GOWER: 150 at Port Eynon on 23 Aug. and 67 here on 12 Sept.; PEMBROKE: max. 57 at Strumble Head on 23 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 195 at Aberystwyth on 8 Aug. and 115 here on 22nd; 100 at Llanrhystud on 22 Aug.; 159 passed Mwnt on 23 Aug., 199 here on 26 Aug. and 59 on 3 Sept.; 182 at New Quay on 26 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 250 at Deganwy on 9 May; 50+ at Afonwen on 8 Aug.; 60+ in Llandudno Bay on 21 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 111 passed Pt Lynas on 29 Aug. and 124 here on 5 Sept.; DENBIGH: 139 at Kinmel Bay on 23 Aug.; FLINT: 80 at Pt of Ayr on 5 July, 50+ here on 23 July and 65 on 8 Aug.

| *Monthly max.* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | |
| Burry Port/Pembrey | 8 | 1 | | 94 | 212 | 379 | 1 | |
| Port Eynon | 16 | 3 | | 2 | 150 | 67 | | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | |
| Strumble Head | | | | 3 | 57 | 37 | 11 | |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | |
| Borth/Ynyslas | | | | 100 | 200 | 350 | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | |
| Broadwater | | | | 96 | 210 | | | |
| Artro estuary | | | | | 330+ | 100 | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 252 | 356 | 1 | |
| Porthdinllaen | 20 | 20 | 15 | | 15 | 50+ | | |
| Porth Neigwl | 15 | | | 6 | 42 | | | |
| Porth Ysgaden | | | | 2 | 222 | 97 | | |
| Foryd | | | | 40 | 290 | *c*.50 | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 50 | 15 | *c*.10 | *c*.15 | 125 | 200 | 3 | |
| Rhos Point | 3 | | 4 | 50 | *c*.260 | 30+ | 14 | 1 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | |
| Clwyd estuary | 23 | 3 | 74 | 600+ | 550+ | 4 | | 1 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | |
| Gronant | 220 | 221 | | 40+ | 1500 | *c*.230 | 13 | |

Earliest and latest dates in each coastal county.

| | **Earliest** | **Site** | | **Latest** | **Site** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 22 May | Sudbrook | | 25 Aug. | Goldcliff Point & 2nd Severn Crossing |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 28 March | Irongate Pt, Porthcawl | | 9 Nov. | Nantyffyllon, Maesteg |
| GOWER | 6 April | Llanrhidian Sands | | 15 Oct. | Caswell Bay |
| CARMARTHEN | 5 April | Pwll | | 12 Oct. | Burry Port Harbour |
| PEMBROKE | 11 April | Teifi estuary | | 14 Oct. | Deer Park, Marloes |
| CEREDIGION | 13 April | Aberystwyth | | 1 Oct. | Ynyslas |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 18 April | Llandanwg | | 12 Oct. | Tywyn |
| **CAERNARFON** | 6 April | Porthdinllaen/Nefyn | | **17 Nov.** | **Rhos Point** |
| **ANGLESEY** | **24 March** | **Cemlyn** | | 11 Oct. | Amlwch Port |
| DENBIGH | 23 June | Llanddulas | | 4 Oct. | Rhos-on-sea |
| FLINT | 21 April | Gronant | | 6 Nov. | Clwyd estuary |

The last of the year in CAERNARFON was six days later than the previous latest this century, in 2002, and that in FLINT was nine days later than the previous latest, in 2007.

Ringing: a co-ordinated effort to record colour ringed Sandwich Terns at roosts in North Wales resulted in 175 resightings of 109 individuals. The re-sightings came from 10 sites across the region, between Gronant, FLINT, in the east and Criccieth, CAERNARFON, in the south. Most of the birds had been ringed as chicks at four colonies in England, three in Scotland, one in Northern Ireland, one in the Republic of Ireland and four in The Netherlands. In addition, 19 birds had been ringed as adults at Ynyslas, Ceredigion, during 2013-20. Ten of the resightings were from the only Welsh colony, at Cemlyn, ANGLESEY, of which several were believed to be nesting. The oldest tern resighted was Blue EPV, which had been ringed on the Ythan estuary, Grampian, in June 2002 and was more than 18 years and 2 months old when it was seen for the

last time on the Clwyd estuary, FLINT, on 18 August 2020.

**LITTLE TERN** *Sternula albifrons* MOR-WENNOL FACH

*Breeds in Flintshire – RBBP: 212 young fledged from 165 nests at two sites in 2019. Elsewhere, uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant to other coasts. Rare inland. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 74 | 53 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Breeding: FLINT: 89 nests at Gronant on 2 June, but up to 70% were lost during high tides coinciding with a northerly wind on 5-7 June. Some are believed to have re-laid at RSPB Pt of Ayr, where 21 pairs fledged 28 young

Little Tern (Jonathan Bull)

(1.33/nest). At Gronant, where wardening levels were lower than usual because of COVID-19 restrictions, predation by Kestrel and Peregrine and high winds that caused sand to drift over nests resulted in high levels of chick loss, and only 31 chicks were known to have fledged (0.35/nest). In addition, 40 nests were lost to Foxes outside the protective fencing.

Non-breeding: the numbers recorded by the Wetland Bird Survey in 2019 (not shown) were 56% higher than the previous peak in 2011, bucking a declining trend in the intervening years. This was almost entirely thanks to a count of 558 on the Flintshire side of the Dee estuary in August 2019, which will have included

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | 26 April | Sker Point | | 24 Aug. | Kenfig Sands |
| CARMARTHEN | no spring records | | | 8 Sept. | Pembrey Harbour |
| PEMBROKE | no spring records | | | 19 Aug. | Teifi estuary |
| CEREDIGION | no spring records | | | 3 Sept. | Mwnt |
| CAERNARFON | no spring records | | | 1 Sept. | Llandudno Bay |
| DENBIGH | no spring records | | | 8 Sept. | Pensarn |
| **FLINT** | **21 April** | **Gronant** | | **17 Sept.** | **Gronant** |

birds from the colonies in the county.

All other records (max. site counts only in Flintshire), singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: four at Kenfig Rivermouth on 16 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: Pembrey Harbour on 24 and 30 Aug.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: two on Teifi est. on 19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: three past Bardsey on 22 Aug. and another on 26th; Llandudno Bay on 1 Sept.; DENBIGH: three at Kinmel Bay on 23 Aug. and 28 at Pensarn on 8 Sept.; FLINT: max. at Gronant, 300 on 9 May, 200+ on 24 June and 252 on 5 July; max. 150+ at Pt of Ayr on 28 July.

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**ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii* MOR-WENNOL WRIDOG

*Occasional breeder on Anglesey – RBBP: two pairs fledged four young in 2019. Uncommon passage visitor to other coasts. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 12 | 56 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Breeding: ANGLESEY: one paired with a Common Tern at a site on the west of the island, fledging one hybrid young; up to two regularly at Cemlyn between 23 May and 11 Aug., but no evidence of breeding. These may have relocated from The Skerries (see Arctic Tern).

All other records, singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN: a record year, involving two at Burry Port Harbour on 14 Aug., two at Pembrey Harbour on 18 Aug. and another here on 19th (plumage and ring details showed that these were five different individuals); off Cefn Sidan on 15 Aug.; Pembrey Harbour on 3 and 9 Sept.; PEMBROKE: up to six between Skomer and Skokholm on 30 Aug.; four off Skokholm on 3 Sept. and six here on 4th; three (adult and two 1CY) in Fishguard Harbour on 25 Aug.; Strumble Head on 24 Sept.; CAERNARFON: good numbers in Tremadog Bay in early Aug.: one at Afonwen on 3rd, two here on 4th and 6th, three on 7th, 9+ on 8th, six on 9th and two on 10th and 19th; two at Penychain on 7 Aug. and three here on 8th; Morfa Aber on 11 Aug.; Bardsey on 22-23 Aug., two adults and two 1CY here on 26th, adult on 27th, two (adult and 1CY) on 4 Sept. and an adult on 5th.

2018 E.GLAMORGAN: Swanbridge on 28 July.

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**COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo* MOR-WENNOL GYFFREDIN

*Four breeding colonies. Passage migrant to other coasts and sometimes inland. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 381 | 229 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 1% | 1% |

Breeding: ANGLESEY: the colony on The Skerries was deserted (*cf*. 301 AON in 2019), probably in late May as a result of disturbance by two subadult Peregrines. COVID-19 regulations had resulted in no wardening, which usually deters the raptors; 174 AON at a site in western Anglesey (*cf*. 191 AON in 2019); 113 AON (Arctic and Common Tern combined) at Cemlyn at the end of May, but following desertion at The Skerries, numbers at Cemlyn increased to an estimated 260-330 pairs of Common Tern but it not clear how many nested; FLINT: 394 AON at Shotton Steelworks, fledging 134 young from 280 hatched chicks (0.34 chicks/breeding pair).

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey does not represent the breeding population especially well, since the only substantial counts come from the Dee estuary used by birds from the Shotton colony, and no counts have been submitted from Cemlyn since 2017. Nonetheless, 2019 had the highest annual WeBS index (not shown) since tern monitoring began in 1994, 98% higher than the previous year.

Counts >=10 elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: 11 at Newton Pt on 25 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: 31 roosted at Pembrey/Burry Port Harbour on 18 Aug., 17 here on 2 Sept. and 10 at Banc y Lord on 21 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 24 at Nevern est. on 14 Aug.; 10 off Strumble Head on 21 Aug. and 10+ here on 26th; 11 in Fishguard Harbour on 24 Aug.; 11 at Gann est. on 25 Aug. and on 7 and 13 Sept.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 52 off Teifi est. on 15 Aug. and 45 on 16th; CEREDIGION: 80 at Ynyslas on 20 Aug.; 25 at Mwnt on 25 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 20 at West Shore, Llandudno, on 9 May; 220 at Afonwen on 2 Aug. and 80+ here on 8th; 26 at Dwyfor est. on 15 Aug.; *c*.10 at Penychain on 20 Aug.; 16 off Bardsey on 23 Aug., 48 here on 26th and 26 on 27th; FLINT: max. on Dee estuary included 115 at Flint on 30 April and 215 here on 1 May, 420 at Shotton Steelworks on 5 July, and 140 at Pt of Ayr on 5 July, 200+ here on 23rd and 20+ on 21 Aug.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | no spring records | | | 29 July | Newport Wetlands Reserve |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | **1 April** | **Cardiff Bay** | | 24 Sept. | Porthcawl |
| GOWER | 22 May | Wernffrwd | | 21 Aug. | Llanrhidian Marsh & Port Eynon Point |
| CARMARTHEN | no spring records | | | 15 Sept. | Pembrey/Burry Port Harbour |
| PEMBROKE | no spring records | | | 13 Sept. | Gann estuary |
| CEREDIGION | no spring records | | | 3 Sept. | Mwnt |
| **BRECON** | 4 June | Llangorse Lake | | **30 Sept.** | **Llangorse Lake** |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 22 April | Aberdysynni | | no autumn records | |
| CAERNARFON | no spring records | | | 15 Sept. | Llanfairfechan |
| ANGLESEY | 10 April | Beaumaris | | 16 Sept. | Lleiniog estuary |
| DENBIGH | no spring records | | | 26 Aug. | Rhos-on-Sea |
| FLINT | 24 April | Bagillt & Point of Ayr | | 7 Sept. | Rhyl seafront |

Inland: BRECON: at Llangorse Lake: one on 4 June, seven on 21 Aug. prior to the arrival of Storm Francis, three on 25 Aug. as the storm receded and two (adult and 1CY) on 30 Sept.

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**ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea* MOR-WENNOL Y GOGLEDD

*Three colonies, all on Anglesey. Passage migrant to other coasts, but generally scarcer than Common Tern. Scarce inland. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **244** | **154** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **<1%** |

Breeding: ANGLESEY: the tern colony on The Skerries was deserted (*cf*. 2814 AON in 2019), probably in late May as a result of disturbance by two subadult Peregrines. COVID-19 regulations had resulted in no wardens being on the island, which usually deters the raptors; 640 AON at a site in western Anglesey (*cf*. 382 in 2019), the highest for many years; 113 AON (Arctic and Common Tern combined) at Cemlyn at the end of May, but bolstered by birds dispersing from The Skerries, an estimated 510-640 pairs of Arctic Tern here in June.

Counts >=10 elsewhere: PEMBROKE: 10 passed Skomer on 25 Aug.; 16 off Skokholm on 27 Aug., 56 here on 28th, 10 on 29th, 25 on 31st, 62 on 1 Sept., 14 on 4th and 27 on 5th; 12 passed Strumble Head on 25 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 21 passed Mwnt on 25 Aug.; CAERNARFON: an exceptional 200 at Afonwen on 2 Aug. and 20+ here on 8 Aug.; passage off Bardsey peaked in late Aug. with 468 on 22nd, 366 on 23rd and a Welsh record 1298 on 26th, 44 here on 4 Sept. and 48 on 5th; ANGLESEY: 144 passed Cemlyn on 26 Aug.; DENBIGH: 12 at Kinmel Bay on 23 Aug.; FLINT: *c*.25 at Pt of Ayr on 21 July.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | no spring records | | | 26 July | Newport Wetlands Reserve |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | no spring records | | | **11 Nov.** | **Sker Point** |
| GOWER | no spring records | | | 21 Aug. | Llanrhidian Marsh |
| CARMARTHEN | no spring records | | | 6 Oct. | Pwll |
| PEMBROKE | no spring records | | | 25 Sept. | Strumble Head |
| CEREDIGION | no spring records | | | 19 Sept. | Ynyslas |
| BRECON | no spring records | | | 25 Aug. | Llangorse Lake (only record in 2020) |
| MEIRIONNYDD | no spring records | | | 27 Sept. | Broadwater |
| CAERNARFON | 30 April | Bardsey | | 10 Oct. | Bardsey |
| **ANGLESEY** | **10 April** | **Beaumaris** | | 1 Sept. | Silver Bay |
| DENBIGH | no spring records | | | 9 Sept. | Rhos-on-Sea |
| FLINT | 24 April | Point of Ayr | | 11 Aug. | Clwyd estuary |

The latest in E.GLAMORGAN was 17 days later than the previous latest this century, in 2004.

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**BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger* CORSWENNOL DDU

*Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties but also on inland waters; spring records are usually fewer in number but there are substantial influxes in some years. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **81** | |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | |

Only two spring records, the one in Carmarthenshire especially late, and a number across Wales from 21-26 Aug.

Single birds unless stated: GOWER: Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 25 Oct. and 1 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Ffos-las on 14 June; Kidwelly Marsh on 21 Aug.; PEMBROKE: two passed Strumble Head on 22 Aug. and singles on 26 Aug. and 5 Oct.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 11 Aug.; RADNOR: Llyn Heilyn on 16 May; CAERNARFON: three passed Bardsey on 23 Aug. and five on 26th; ANGLESEY: two over Bull Bay on 7 Sept.; DENBIGH: RSPB Conwy on 23 Aug.

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**GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua* SGIWEN FAWR

*Regular on autumn passage along the west coast. Numbers vary annually, the highest counts dependent on the strength and frequency of onshore gales. Small numbers in spring, and occasionally in winter. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **63** | **39** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

The decline in the Scottish breeding population is well-documented and the BirdTrack reporting rate, while low, appears to be falling in Wales. Since most records are in the autumn, this would have been less affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions in 2020. It may reflect less sea-watching or fewer autumn gales, since the reporting rate for Arctic Skua has also fallen (see chart on p.7).

Single birds unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt on 26 Aug.; GOWER: Port Eynon on 21 and 23 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 122 passed Strumble Head (max. daily totals tabulated below); eight passed Skokholm between 13 Sept. and 6 Oct.; nine off Skomer during 21-26 Aug. (max. five on last date); five off Ramsey on 26 Aug., six here on 25 Sept. and two on 19 Nov.; Grassholm on 14 Sept.; Deer Park, Marloes, on 17 Sept.; St Brides on 6 Dec.; Amroth on 23 and 26 Dec.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 6, 13 and 16

Aug. and seven on 26th; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 22 Aug.; two passed Mwnt on 23 Aug., an exceptional 23 here on 26th, two on 5 Sept. and two on 25th; three at Ynyslas on 15 Sept.; 15 miles off Aberystwyth on 1 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: Ynys saltings/Glandyfi on 12 and 14 Feb.; Tonfanau on 29 Sept.; Tywyn on 16 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 90 passed Bardsey between 28 July and 10 Oct. (max. daily totals tabulated below); Porth Ysgaden on 3 Aug.; Criccieth on 21 Aug.; two off Llanfairfechan on 2 Dec.; ANGLESEY: RSPB South Stack on 18 April; min. 22 passed Pt Lynas between 6 July and 21 Nov. (max. daily totals tabulated below); 1-2 at other sites during 22-28 Aug.; Amlwch on 25 Sept.; FLINT: Rhyl seafront on 7 Sept.

Max. daily totals per month at selected locations.

| *Monthly max.* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Strumble Head, PEMBROKE | 1 | 2 | 38 | 20 | 5 | 1 |
| Bardsey, CAERNARFON | | 2 | 4 | 11 | 11 | |
| Point Lynas, ANGLESEY | | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 | |

**POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus* SGIWEN FRECH

*Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly in autumn. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **19** | **9** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Single birds unless stated: GOWER: west at Port Eynon on 23 Aug.; PEMBROKE: eight passed Strumble Head is the second lowest count ever: singles on 28 July and 26 Aug. and three on 23 Aug. and 3 Nov.; Skomer on 26 Aug.; 1CY off Skokholm on 3 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 23 Aug.; Ynyslas on 7, 15, 20 and 22 Sept., four adults and 1CY here on 17th; Aberystwyth on 15 Nov.; CAERNARFON: nine off Bardsey: two on 26 Aug., 5 and 9 Sept. and singles on 12 Sept., 10 and 26 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 24 and 26 Aug.

**ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus* SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

*Passage bird off coastal counties; uncommon in spring, more numerous in autumn. Wales Amber listed*.

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **89** | **47** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

The BirdTrack reporting rate has halved since 2013 (see p.7). As usual, the peak counts were during August and September, but outside the period tabulated below, there was one off Aberystwyth, CEREDIGION, on 17 Feb.

Numbers recorded in each county.

| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | 12 | | | |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | |
| Port Eynon Point | 1 | | 4 | | 7 | 4 | | |
| Whiteford | | | | | 1 | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | 1 | | | | 6 | 2 | | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | |
| Strumble Head | | | | 2 | 68 | 34 | 1 | |
| elsewhere | | 1 | | 1 | 16 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | |
| Mwnt | | | | | 75 | | | |
| Ynyslas/Borth | | | | | | 88 | | |
| elsewhere | | 1 | | | 18 | 5 | 2 | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | 1 | | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | | | | 4 | 17 | 28 | 5 | |
| elsewhere | | | | 1 | 7 | 19 | | |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | |
| Point Lynas | | | | | 27 | 10 | | |
| Cemlyn | | | 1 | 4 | 17 | 15 | 5 | |
| elsewhere | | | | | 10 | | | |
| DENBIGH | | | | | 2 | 1 | | |
| FLINT | | | | | 1 | | | |

**LONG-TAILED SKUA** *Stercorarius longicaudus* SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

*Uncommon passage migrant, chiefly along the western seaboard during westerly gales. Unusual in spring. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **9** | **3** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

All records were single birds unless stated: PEMBROKE: 15 passed Strumble Head on 26 Aug. (two adults and 13 1CY), 1CY here on 29 Aug. and two 1CY on 25 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 1CY at Ynyslas on 7, 18-19 and 22 Sept.; two 1CY passed Mwnt on 25 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 1CY passed Bardsey on 22 Aug., two 1CY here on 23 Aug., one on 26 Aug. and adult/3CY on 11 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Pt Lynas on 26 Aug.; pale 1CY off Cemlyn on 26 Aug. and one on 23 Sept.

**LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle* CARFIL BACH

*Scarce but declining winter visitor in irregular numbers off the western seaboard. Most sightings are in late autumn and early winter, often following westerly gales.*

Two tideline corpses following a completely blank year in 2019. It is November 2018 since a live Little Auk was last seen in Wales and winter 2014/15 since a season that numbered more than 10.

GOWER: corpse on Aberavon beach 20 Feb.; ANGLESEY: long dead corpse at Porth Dafarch on 22 Nov.

**GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge* GWYLOG

*Abundant breeding species in southwestern and northwestern counties. Moves away to moult after breeding and returns to vicinity of colonies as early as December. The count unit is adults on land (AOL). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **837** | **375** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **4%** | **2%** |

Breeding (AOL): 8191, up 4% (*cf*. 7859 in 2019 where comparable counts were made). PEMBROKE: 5101 on Skokholm (*cf*. 4654 in 2019); 1858 within study-plot on Ramsey (*cf*. 1792 in 2019); CAERNARFON: 1232 on Bardsey (*cf*. 1413 in 2019).

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 0.76 on Skomer (*cf*. 0.73 in 2019) (Zbijewska *et al*. 2020); CAERNARFON: 0.44 on Bardsey (from sample plot of 50 AOLs), 22.8% lower than in 2019 but 32.1% higher than 10-year mean.

Non-breeding counts >=5: E.GLAMORGAN: eight at Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 15 Nov.; GOWER: *c*.98 off Worms Head on 22 March; five at Port Eynon on 5 Sept.; eight off Aberavon on 20 Sept.; eight at Rhossili/Mewslade on 17 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: seven at Cefn Sidan on 31 Aug., six here on 25 Sept. and 10 on 19 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 30 off Tonfanau and 40 off Llwyngwril on 29 Sept.; 19 off Tywyn on 12 Oct., eight here on 16th and 19 on 17th; CAERNARFON: 60 at Porthdinllaen/Nefyn on 30 April; DENBIGH: nine off Colwyn Bay on 23 Jan.; 21 off Llanddulas on 14 Sept.

Max. monthly counts from selected locations.

| *Monthly max.* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Skokholm, PEMBROKE | 36 | 2000 | 3686 | 3971 | 2600 | 3000 | 2200 | 411 | 15 | 40 | 233 | 32 |
| Bardsey, CAERNARFON | *c*.150 | | | | | 30+ | 200+ | | 30+ | 114 | | |
| Little Orme, CAERNARFON | 9 | 30 | 50+ | 5+ | 20+ | | | | | | | |

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**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda* LLURS

*Fairly common breeder on cliffs and islands of northwest and southwest Wales. Some disperse south in winter but others remain in Welsh waters. The count unit is adults on land (AOL). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **661** | **398** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **3%** | **2%** |

Breeding (AOL): 5325, up 8.5% (*cf*. 4909 in 2019 where comparable counts were made). PEMBROKE: 3517 on Skokholm (*cf*. 2755 in 2019); 408 within study-plot on Ramsey (*cf*. 237 in 2019); CAERNARFON: 1400 on Bardsey (*cf*. 1917 in 2019); ANGLESEY: 1498 at RSPB South Stack (*cf*. 1192 in 2019).

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 0.46 on Skomer *(cf*. 0.63 in 2019) (Zbijewska *et al*. 2020); 0.56 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.63 in 2019) (Brown & Eagle 2020); CAERNARFON: min. 111 young and eggs on Bardsey, 67.8% lower than 2019 and 61% lower than the 10-year mean.

Non-breeding counts (singles unless stated): E.GLAMORGAN: Lavernock Pt on 1 Nov.; Porthcawl on 15 Nov.; Sker Pt on 4 Dec.; GOWER: two between Port Eynon and Overton on 10 July; Bracelet Bay on 22 Aug.; two at Knab Rock on 24 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: two at Cefn Sidan on 31 Aug.; Burry Port on 14 Sept.; Pembrey Harbour on 17 Sept. and four here on 22nd; Pendine on 5 Nov.; Telpyn Pt on 1 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: max. 70 off Llwyngwril on 29 Sept.; 88 north passed Tywyn on 12 Oct., 389 here on 16th (347 north) and 1025 south on 17th were the largest counts for many years; CAERNARFON: 28 off Llanfairfechan on 6 Feb.; 29 at Abercegin on 25 Sept.; 22+ at Aber Ogwen on 11 Oct.; 472 off the Great Orme on 28 Oct.; 60+ in Llandudno Bay on 26 Nov.; DENBIGH: max. 10 at Rhos-on-Sea on 26 Nov.; FLINT: max. four off Gronant on 12 Nov.

Max. monthly counts from selected locations.

| *Monthly maxima* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Skokholm, PEMBROKE | 1875 | 2274 | 600 | 1200 | 300 | 159 | 82 | 79 | 17 | 2 |
| Bardsey, CAERNARFON | 41 | 400 | 2000 | 2000 | 67 | 189 | 1500 | 600 | | |

**BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cepphus grylle* GWYLOG DDU

*Localised and uncommon breeding species, primarily on Anglesey. Small numbers elsewhere outside the breeding season. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **269** | **192** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **1%** |

Breeding season: PEMBROKE: no confirmed breeding, but present in Fishguard Harbour between 20 Jan. and 24 July, max. three on 21 July; ANGLESEY: 12 in Holyhead Harbour on 27 March and 10 April and 44 in the outer harbour following poor weather conditions on 18 June, the highest count ever for a single site on the island; two at Amlwch Port on 20 April.

All records away from above sites, singles unless stated: CEREDIGION: Ynys Lochtyn on 23 Aug.; CAERNARFON: max. four off the Great Orme on 10 July; Bangor harbour and pier on several dates in each winter period; also at Criccieth, Pwllheli, Porth Ysgaden and Little Orme; Bardsey on 27 May.

**PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica* PAL

*Locally abundant on offshore islands and a few western headlands. Count unit is Apparently Occupied Burrows (AOB) or Adults on Land (AOL). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **320** | **40** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **<1%** |

Breeding: 43,494 AOB, up 37% (*cf*. 31,696 in 2019 where comparable counts were made). PEMBROKE: 8534 AOB on Skokholm (*cf*. 7447 in 2019); 34,796 AOB on Skomer (*cf*. 24,108 in 2019); CAERNARFON: 164 AOB on east side of Bardsey (*cf*. 141 in 2019), 103.7% above the 10-year mean; ANGLESEY: 12 AOL at RSPB South Stack on 20 July.

Nesting productivity (chicks fledged per active burrow): PEMBROKE: 0.7 on Skomer (*cf*. 0.67 in 2019) (Zbijewska *et al*. 2020); 0.78 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.76 in 2019) (Brown & Eagle 2020).

Non-breeding, single birds unless stated: GOWER: Rhossili on 6 July; CEREDIGION: freshly-dead 1CY at Ynyslas on 19 July; off Cardigan Island on 14 Aug. and two here on 15th; ANGLESEY: four at Cemlyn on 25 July; one passed South Stack on 5 Sept.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON.

| *Monthly maxima* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bardsey | 14 | 80 | 161 | 220 | 32 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

**RED-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia stellata* TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

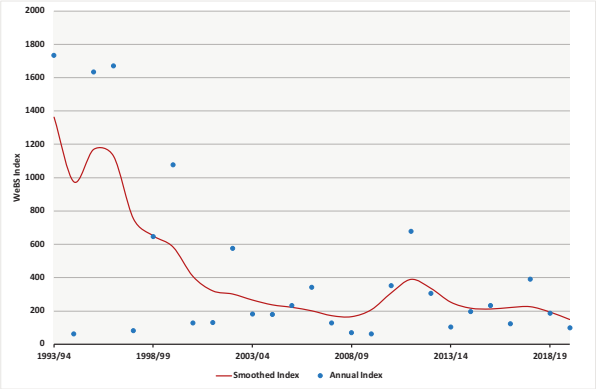
*Localised coastal winter visitor and passage migrant, sometimes in large concentrations. Rare inland. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **288** | **281** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **1%** |

The Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has remained fairly stable for 15 years, but is 85% lower than 25 years ago. The highest counts come from North Wales, at Traeth Lafan (five-year average of 66 birds), Caernarfon Bay (46),

Conwy Bay (26) and Colwyn Bay (24), but many open coasts elsewhere are not routinely counted. The 78 in Gower on 30 Dec. was the highest count in the recording area since December 1992.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Red-throated Diver in Wales 1993/94-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=20 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=20 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| St Brides Bay | 32 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Borth/Ynyslas | | 2 | 5 | | | | | | 24 | 15 | 9 | 7 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Caernarfon Bay | | 49 | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Traeth Lafan | 10 | 14 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 9+ | 20+ |
| Penrhyn Bay to Rhos Point | *c*.13 | 30+ | 1 | | | | | | | 3 | 10 | 4 |
| Little Orme | 13 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 27 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Benllech | 12 | | | | | | | | | | 15 | 20 |

* Fort Belan to Trefor pier.

Max. counts elsewhere: GWENT: one at Llandegfedd Res. on 4-5 Oct. and present here on 8 Oct. and 28 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 off Sker Pt on 4 Dec. and 10 here on 6-7th; GOWER: 78 south of Worms Head on 30 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 47 at Telpyn Pt on 1 Dec.; 15 at Cefn Sidan on 6 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 14 off Strumble Head on 19 Nov.; 83 between Wiseman's Bridge and Amroth in Dec.; BRECON: one over Groesffordd on 15 April was the eighth Breconshire record and the first since 1999; CEREDIGION: 15 at Aberystwyth in Jan.; 15 at Wallog on 15 March; MEIRIONNYDD: five off Penllyn, Tywyn, on 15 Sept.; six off Tywyn on 17 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 23 at Porth Neigwl on 18 April; ANGLESEY: 36 passed Cemlyn on 19 Nov. and 42 during a 2½ hour sea-watch from Pt Lynas on the same date; DENBIGH: 32 off Colwyn Bay on 1 Jan. and 50+ here on 23rd; FLINT: three at Pt of Ayr on 6 Dec.

**BLACK-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia arctica* TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

*Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 85 | 15 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

All records, singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: Goultrop Roads to Broad Haven (North) on 1-9 Jan. and 22 March; St Brides Bay on 15 Jan.; Strumble Head on 12 Feb. and two here on 19 Nov.; Wiseman's Bridge on 13 Dec.; CEREDIGION: three at Ynyslas on 27 Sept.; Mwnt on 27 Sept.; Llyn Eiddwen on 14 Dec.; CAERNARFON: two off Llanfairfechan on 24 Jan.; two off Penrhyn Bay on 24 Feb.; Bardsey on 26 Sept., 2, 8 and 10 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Benllech on 29 Jan. and 14 March; Pt Lynas and Cemlyn on 22 Oct.; Cemlyn on 13 Nov.; DENBIGH: three off Pensarn on 17 Oct.

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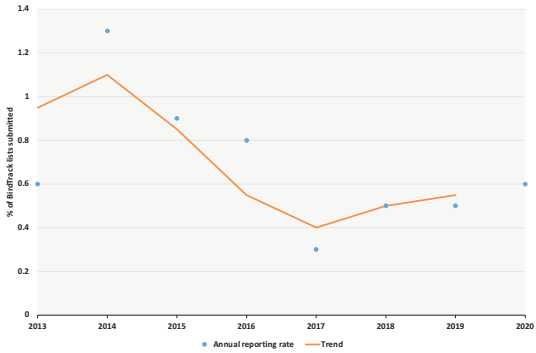
**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer* TROCHYDD MAWR

*Winter visitor and passage migrant, recorded offshore in small numbers annually. Scarce inland. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 275 | 436 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | 1% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate varies between winters, but was the highest for four years in 2020.




**BirdTrack reporting rate: Great Northern Diver in Wales 2013-20**

Number of birds present in each county.
* Fort Belan to Trefor pier.

| *Monthly totals* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 11 | 8 |
| GOWER | 1-2 on 11 dates | | | | 1 | | | | Up to three on 17 dates | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| St Brides Bay | 8 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| Strumble Head | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 6 | |
| Fishguard Harbour | 2 | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| other sites | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 5 |
| CEREDIGION | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 3 | 5 | 5 | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bardsey | | | | 1 | 3 | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | | |
| *Caernarfon Bay | 3 | 15 | 21 | 7 | | | | | | | 24 | |
| other sites | 5 | 7 | 5 | | | | | | 2 | | 9 | 3 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 3 | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | 3 | 4 |
| other sites | 3 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| DENBIGH | 3 | 1+ | 2 | | | | | | | | | |

**STORM PETREL** *Hydrobates pelagicus* PEDRYN DRYCIN

*Breeds on Bardsey and on six Pembrokeshire islands (c.2500 pairs). The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 31 | 25 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Breeding: PEMBROKE: no population census on Skokholm, but productivity estimated at 0.45 chicks/breeding pair (*cf*. 0.74 in 2019) (Brown & Eagle 2020); eight AOS on Ramsey; CAERNARFON: adults heard on Bardsey around Briw Gerrig, Seal Cave and Bae Felen in June and July; one nest in an artificial nest box.

Non-breeding records were singles unless stated, most off Ceredigion and the south coast following stormy conditions in late Aug.: E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Pt and Swanbridge on 24 May; Lavernock Pt on 29 June and nearby Sully Island on 30th; Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 2 July and two off Porthcawl on 8th; St Mary's Well Bay on 4 July and two here on 6th; six off Lavernock Pt, two at Sker Pt and five at St Mary's Well Bay on 22 Aug.; Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 26-27 Aug.; Lavernock Pt and Sker Pt on 26 Aug.; GOWER: six off Port Eynon Pt on 21 Aug. and three here on 23rd; two off Tutt Head and 3-4 at nearby Bracelet Bay on 22nd; CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan on 22 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 17 passed Strumble Head on 6 June, 30 in Aug. (max. day counts of 13 on 22nd and 14 on 23rd) and three here on 5 Sept.; two off Skomer on 21 Aug.; CEREDIGION: three off Aberaeron on 29 June; five off Llanrhystud and one at Mwnt on 22 Aug., four off Mwnt on 23rd, two here on 25th, five on 26th and one on 5 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 29 June and 5 Sept.; Criccieth on 21 Aug. and 8+ here on 22nd; ANGLESEY: two west at Amlwch on 6 June; three ringed (and another caught*) at Pt Lynas on 31 July and one here on 12 Aug.; three at Cemlyn on 18 Aug.

Max. monthly counts on Skokholm, PEMBROKE:

| | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Skokholm | 1 | 101 | 24 | 129 | 19 | 12 |

*Ringing: ANGLESEY: one of the four caught at Pt Lynas on 31 July had been ringed 10 days previously on the Calf of Man.

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**LEACH'S PETREL** *Hydrobates leucorhous* PEDRYN-DRYCIN LEACH

*Uncommon autumn visitor, most frequent off the North Wales coast and Cardigan Bay during storms in September. Wales Amber listed.*

All records were singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: Skomer on 26 Aug.; two off Strumble Head on 8 Oct. and one here on 16 Nov.; CEREDIGION: two at Mwnt on 5 Sept. and one here on 25th; CAERNARFON: south past Bardsey on 23 Oct.; ANGLESEY: two at South Stack on 21 Aug.; five passed Cemlyn on 5 Sept. and one on 6th; Bull Bay on 5 Sept. and 11 Oct.; Pt Lynas and Cemlyn on 22 Oct.

2017 E.GLAMORGAN: one at Porthcawl seafront on 11 Sept.

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**FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis* ADERYN DRYCIN Y GRAIG

*Fairly common but declining breeding species. Frequent offshore in most months. The count unit is the apparently occupied site (AOS). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 981 | 494 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 4% | 2% |

Breeding: 807 AOS (*cf*. 810 in 2019 where colonies counted in both years). E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Colhuw Pt; max. 20 at Nash Pt; GOWER: probably bred (five AOS) at Fall Bay/Lewes Castle; PEMBROKE: Skokholm 207 AOS

(*cf*. 198 in 2019); Skomer 580 AOS (*cf*. 578 in 2019); CAERNARFON: Bardsey 16 AOS (*cf*. 14 in 2019); Little Orme 2 AOS (*cf.* 4 in 2019); DENBIGH: 2 AOS at Llanddulas quarries (*cf*. 16 in 2019).

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 0.28 in seven study plots on Skomer (*cf.* 0.51 in 2019, five-year mean of 0.40 - Zbijewska *et al*. 2020); 0.51 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.62 in 2019) (Brown & Eagle 2020); 0.42 on Ramsey; CAERNARFON: four near-fledged young on Bardsey (0.25 per pair).

Other notable records/county maxima: GWENT: two at Sudbrook on 22 May; two off Goldcliff Pt on 25 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 17 off Nash Pt on 25 Jan.; GOWER: 23 at Port Eynon Pt on 21 Aug.; CARMARTHEN: five at Telpyn Pt on 1 March; CEREDIGION: 116 at Mwnt on 22 Aug. and 86 here on 3 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: four at Aberdysynni on 23 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 45 at Porthdinllaen/Nefyn on 22 Aug.; 40+ at the Great Orme and 30+ in Llandudno Bay on 11 Dec.; ANGLESEY: 15 at Pt Lynas on 24 July; DENBIGH: 15+ at Llanddulas on 31 Jan.

Max. monthly counts from Skokholm, PEMBROKE, and Bardsey, CAERNARFON.

| | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Skokholm | 111 | 222 | 173 | 120 | 92 | 84 | 74 | 17 | 209 | 148 |
| Bardsey | | 4 | 35 | 28 | 7 | 169 | 38 | 1 | | |

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**CORY'S SHEARWATER** *Calonectris borealis* ADERYN DRYCIN CORY

*Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 116 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: two passed Strumble Head on 25 Sept.

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**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Ardenna grisea* ADERYN DRYCIN DU

*Uncommon autumn passage migrant, though numbers vary. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **5** | **10** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

All records, singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: very few passed Strumble Head: 13 in Aug. (max. seven on 23rd) and singles on 5 and 24-25 Sept.; Skokholm on 31 July, 16 Aug., two on 21st and one on 24th; two off Skomer on 3 Aug. and one on 25th; Ramsey on 26 Aug. and two here on 25 Sept.; CEREDIGION: two passed Mwnt on 23 Aug. and singles on 25 Aug. and 5 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 23 and 26 Aug., 4-5 Sept., 25-26 Sept. and on 10, 20 and 26 Oct.; Porth Ysgaden on 4-5 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 26 Aug.

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**GREAT SHEARWATER** *Ardenna gravis* ADERYN DRYCIN MAWR

*Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBRC: 289 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: one passed Strumble Head on 26 Aug.

**MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus* ADERYN DRYCIN MANAW

*Breeds on Pembrokeshire islands and Bardsey, which hold over half the global population. Large feeding movements and autumn passage off western coasts and even well up into the Bristol Channel. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 475 | 277 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 1% |

Breeding: PEMBROKE: 730 nests in a sample study plot of 8,000m$^2$ on Skokholm (*cf*. 655 in 2019).

Nesting productivity estimates (chicks/breeding pair): PEMBROKE: 0.68 on Skokholm (*cf*. 0.72 in 2019) (Brown & Eagle 2020); 0.65 at the Isthmus study plot on Skomer *(cf*. 0.52 in 2019) (Zbijewska *et al*. 2020); CAERNARFON: 94 of 124 monitored AOB on Bardsey fledged young (0.74 chicks/breeding pair), 3.9% lower productivity than in 2019 but 8.8% higher than the 10-year mean.

Other large counts: GWENT: 60 at Severn Beach on 5 July; E.GLAMORGAN: several thousand per hour at Irongate Pt, Porthcawl, on 3 July; GOWER: 1148 off Port Eynon Pt in two hours on 6 June and 3471 here in three hours on 21st; CARMARTHEN: *c*.1500 at Cefn Sidan on 2 Aug.; *c*.2000 at Pembrey Harbour on 4 Aug.; 1CYs picked up at Carmarthen on 27 Aug., Llandovery on 13 Sept., Rhosmaen and St Clears on 15 Sept., released at Telpyn Pt; CEREDIGION: 2850 passed New Quay on 28 July; 5000 passed Aberystwyth on 9 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: many thousands off Aberdyfi on 11 Aug. presumed to be feeding on whitebait; 5688 north off Aberdysynni in 1½ hours on 23 Aug.; CAERNARFON: max. at Porth Ysgaden included 5950 on 26 July, 1577 on 28th, 5900 on 29th, 3003 on 30 July and 5670 on 3 Aug.; ANGLESEY: 3060 in three hours at The Range on 28 July; *c*.7500 passed Pt Lynas in three hours on 23 Aug. and 1510 here on 26th; 990 in one hour passed at Cemlyn on 24 Aug.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON, and Skokholm, PEMBROKE.

| | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bardsey | 54 | 467 | 4974 | 10,020 | 3599 | 12,911 | 1027 | 24 | |
| Skokholm | 42 | 2100 | 8500 | 24,750 | 16,200 | 87,520 | 10,970 | 54 | 6 |

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**BALEARIC SHEARWATER** *Puffinus mauretanicus* ADERYN DRYCIN BALEARIG

*Uncommon autumn migrant to western coasts, though larger numbers can occur in the Celtic Sea (e.g. 23% of the global population in 2014, Phillips et al. 2021). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 7 | 11 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Another poor year, with *c*.50 individuals, even assuming no duplication in the records below (*cf*. 2010-19 annual average was 159).

All records, singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: Strumble Head on 22 Aug., three here on 23rd and 26th, singles on 19, 24 and 25 Sept.; Ramsey on 25 Aug.; three off Skokholm on 28 Sept.; CEREDIGION: Mwnt on 22-23 Aug., three here on 26th and singles on 3, 5 and 25 Sept.; CAERNARFON: min. 18 off west side of Bardsey on 22 Sept., one here on 23rd, three on 30th Sept. and one on 26 Oct.; Criccieth on 22 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Pt Lynas on 6 July and 23 Aug.; Cemlyn on 24 Aug. and two here on 26th; Pt Lynas, Bull Bay and Cemlyn on 5 Sept.; Pt Lynas and Cemlyn on 22 Oct.

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**WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia* CICONIA GWYN

*Scarce visitor from Europe. Some records may be escaped individuals. WBRC: 74 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: near Mathry on 20 April.

**GANNET** *Morus bassanus* HUGAN

*One breeding colony: Grassholm, Pembrokeshire, where numbers increased from c.7000 AON in 1948 to 36,000 AON in 2015. Elsewhere, occurs off all coasts throughout the year. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1155 | 770 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 5% | 3% |

Breeding: ANGLESEY: *c*.10 pairs (some nest building) at Ynys Badrig/Middle Mouse, but no further evidence of breeding.

Gannet (Cameron Sharp)

Non-breeding: the BirdTrack reporting rate for Gannet, much like other passage seabirds, reached its lowest point yet (see p.7), suggesting that fewer seawatching records are being submitted. Notable and max. county: GWENT: two off Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: max. 30 passed Porthcawl seafront and 50 at Lavernock Pt on 21 Aug.; GOWER: 99 off Port Eynon Pt on 21 June; CARMARTHEN: one feeding at Sandy WP on 22 Aug.; max. *c*.500 at Cefn Sidan, on 30 Aug. and *c*.350 on 31st; CEREDIGION: 1407 passed Mwnt on 22 Aug., 2700 here on 23rd and 1200 on 3 Sept.; 1500 passed Gwbert on 26 Aug.; 1100 off Aberystwyth on 8 Sept.; 1500 off Ynyslas on 17 Sept., 3000-4000 here on 18th and 650 on 17 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 169 off Aberdysynni on 28 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 414 at Porth Ysgaden on 28 July; 400 at Black Rock on 19 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 250 at Pt Lynas on 22 Aug.; 240 at Cemlyn on 24 Aug.; DENBIGH: 120+ off Kinmel Bay on 13 Sept.; FLINT: max. 11 off Gronant on 30 April.

Max. monthly counts from Skokholm, PEMBROKE and Bardsey, CAERNARFON.

| | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Skokholm | 27 | 92 | 83 | 195 | 177 | 456 | 330 | 128 | 49 |
| Bardsey | 4 | 157 | 254 | 302 | 285 | 1182 | 1000 | 240 | |

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**CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo* MULFRAN

*Breeding resident in coastal counties from Gwent to Anglesey. Frequent offshore elsewhere. Regular inland. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON). Wales Amber listed.*

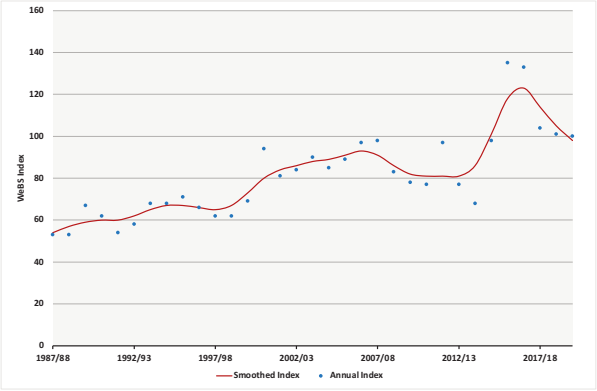
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 5512 | 4608 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 23% | 22% |

Breeding: PEMBROKE: 1 AON on Skomer (*cf*. 2 in 2019); MONTGOMERY: two AON in an oak tree on the island at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas, fledging five young (*cf*. 1 AON in 2019); CAERNARFON: nested on Ynysoedd Gwylan, but no counts undertaken.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen for the third consecutive year, by 20%

since 2016/17, but remains 46% higher than 25 years previously. This was largely driven by numbers along the Colwyn Bay/North Clwyd coast where annual peak counts of more than 1000 birds in August 2015/16 and 2016/17 had made it the most important site in Wales, but the largest count was just 76 in 2019/20.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Cormorant in Wales 1987/88-2019/20**




Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=50 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=50 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cardiff Bay | 103 | 41 | 49 | 22 | 10 | 12 | 20 | 22 | 78 | 64 | 55 | 59 |
| Roath Park Lake | 31 | 31 | 13 | | 1 | | 21 | 46 | 4 | 76* | 18 | 6 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Swansea Docks | 104 | 80 | | | | | | | | | *c.*50 | 80+ |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 31 | 47 | 48 | 15 | 3 | 14 | 12 | 25 | 19 | 63 | 49 | 26 |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llangorse Lake | 77 | 30 | 8 | | | | | | 62 | 47 | 65 | 55 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broadwater | 4 | | | | | | 103 | 60 | 40 | | 10 | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Great Orme | 8 | | | | | 20 | *c.*50 | *c.*50 | *c.*30 | | | |
| Little Orme | 12 | 5 | 4 | 20+ | 72+ | | 57 | 100+ | 50 | | 2 | 7 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kinmel Bay | 47 | 7 | 66 | 9 | 67 | 51 | 15 | 28 | 19 | 106 | 39 | 14 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gronant | 198 | *c.*70 | | 109 | 167 | 50+ | 274 | 114 | *c.*240 | 534 | *c.*230 | *c.*120 |
| Rhyl | *c.*65 | | 95 | 69 | 217 | 116 | *c.*110 | 189 | 176 | *c.*220 | 88 | |

* roost count

Counts >=50 elsewhere: GWENT: on 200km of rivers surveyed, max. 67 in Nov. and 83 in Dec. (Tyler and Clarke 2021); ANGLESEY: 126 at Llyn Alaw on 5 Feb.; FLINT: 81 at Rhuddlan on 24 Sept. and 62 here on 25th; 120+ at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 16 Dec.

***P.c. sinensis* (Continental Cormorant / Mulfran y Cyfandir)**

*Likely to be under-reported, especially inland where 18% of birds shot in the late 1990s were identified as this subspecies. WBRC maintained records from the first identified in the field in 2004, but ceased doing so in 2020, having determined its regular occurrence, especially in Breconshire. The Welsh Bird Report will*

*continue to include records published in county reports.*
E.GLAMORGAN: one at Kenfig on 25 Dec.; PEMBROKE: at least two on Gann est. from 24-31 Dec. at least, the first accepted records in the county; BRECON: one at Llangorse Sailing Club Meadow on 11 March.

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**SHAG** *Gulosus aristotelis* MULFRAN WERDD

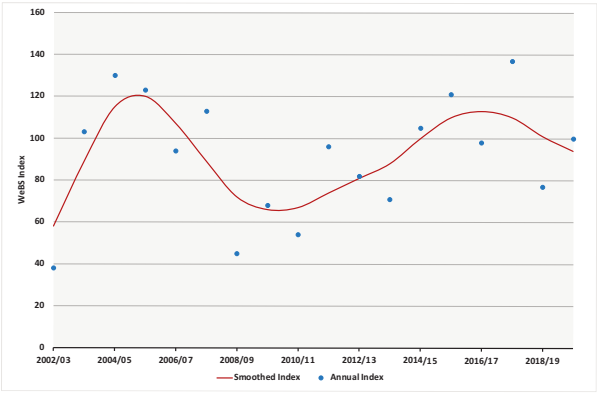
*Localised breeding species on rocky coasts from Gower to Anglesey. The count unit is the apparently occupied nest (AON). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1122 | 731 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 5% | 3% |

Breeding: GOWER: 1+ pair bred at Butterslade and two fledglings seen; PEMBROKE: Skomer 3 AON (*cf*. 3 in 2019); CAERNARFON: 39 AON on Bardsey (*cf*. 45 in 2019).

Breeding productivity (fledged young/breeding pair): CAERNARFON: 1.1 on Bardsey, 38.4% below the 10-year mean.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Shag in Wales 2002/03-2019/20**




Non-breeding: the annual Wetland Bird Survey index for Wales varies, and many open coasts favoured by Shags are not counted, but overall the long-term trend would suggest a stable population. The highest WeBS count in 2019/20 was 24 in Fishguard harbour, PEMBROKE, in November 2019.

Max. monthly counts from Bardsey, CAERNARFON.

| | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bardsey | 13 | 22 | 45 | 105 | 88 | 56 | 51 | 24 |

Max. counts elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: three at Sker Pt on 26 Feb. and 30 March; GOWER: five at Queen's Dock, Swansea, on 4 Jan. and 31 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Telpyn Pt on 1 March and 27 Aug.; Cefn Sidan on 22 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 20 at St Davids Head on 23 July; 15 on Skokholm on 3 Aug.; 20 in St Brides Bay on 6 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 32 at Mwnt on 22 Aug. and 50 here on 23rd; MEIRIONNYDD: five at Glaslyn/Dwyryd

Since October 2019, the School of Ocean Sciences at Bangor University has monitored Shag and Cormorant activities in the Menai Strait, CAERNARFON/ANGLESEY, from Penmon to Menai Bridge, focusing on understanding the population responses to weather variations and tidal cycles. In the early stages of this project, it was noted that up to eight Shags regularly roosted on the columns of Telford's Menai Suspension Bridge during daylight hours. However, when extending observations to dawn and dusk from July 2020, up to 45 were counted, suggesting that this is primarily a nocturnal roost. Good numbers were seen departing and arriving at dawn and dusk, with large circling flocks and rafts often seen alongside the bridge at these times. The maximum counts in July 2020 (26) and August (25) were slightly lower than those in September (45), suggesting that numbers using the roost increased after the breeding season. Contributed by James Waggitt, Bangor University.

est. in Jan.; five at Broadwater in Sept.; CAERNARFON: 200+ at Great Orme in Aug.; 50 at Little Orme in Sept.; ANGLESEY: 25 at East Mouse, Amlwch, on 27 Nov.; CAERNARFON/DENBIGH: 12 at Penrhyn Bay/Rhos-on-Sea on 18 Feb.; FLINT: four at Prestatyn on 15 Dec.

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**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellis* IBIS DDU

*Scarce and increasing visitor from Europe. WBRC: 129 previous records.*

All records were single birds. GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) from 14 Jan. 2019 remained into 2020 and was joined by a second from 17 Sept. until the end of the year; GOWER: Staffal Haegr and Llanrhidian on 17-18 Sept. was the first record for the county; CARMARTHEN: Ferryside on 4 Sept. and presumed same at Kidwelly on 6-13 Sept.; PEMBROKE: seven on Gann est. on 10 Sept., of which two remained to 11th; over St Davids on 21 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON: Porthmadog on 14-15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 19-20 Sept.; two at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 19-27 Sept.

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**SPOONBILL** *Platalea leucorodia* LLWYBIG

*Uncommon visitor to Wales, mainly to coastal wetlands, in autumn, but increasingly in spring and summer. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack recoreds** | **430** | **171** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Perhaps 22 individuals (assuming those in spring and autumn in the Burry Inlet were different birds), far fewer records than in 2019, when a record 46 were seen. This in part may reflect the lack of access to wetlands during the spring lockdown.

Numbers in Burry Inlet.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| south side | P | 6 | 4 | | | | | | 3 | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| north side | 7 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | | 4 | 9 | 6 | 6 |

Elsewhere, all singles: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 8-16 July and 25 Aug.; PEMBROKE: Boulston on 21 May; ANGLESEY: Valley area on 16 May; Plas Bog, near Bryngwran, on 24 June.

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**BITTERN** *Botaurus stellaris* ADERYN Y BWN

*Uncommon but regular winter visitor and, since 2016, breeding species. RBBP: eight booming males and four nests in 2019. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **92** | **33** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Young at Newport Wetlands, GWENT, proved the first known successful breeding in South Wales for 200 years, another landmark in the species' recovery, but the spring lockdown meant there was insufficient monitoring to confirm breeding on ANGLESEY. Two records in July and August in counties without breeding Bitterns are notable.

Breeding season: GWENT: young fledged from two nests at Newport Wetlands Reserve; ANGLESEY: breeding not proven, but present at RSPB Cors Ddyga during spring and summer, with two here in April and May; booming male at Valley Wetlands in March, May and June.

Non-breeding records elsewhere, all single birds in the first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool on 15 Jan., 4 and 16 Feb.; GOWER: Oxwich Marsh on 18 Jan.; CEREDIGION: walking on the road outside Llangorwen church on 11 April.

Second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig Pool on 7 Oct. and from 23 Oct. to 18 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 2CY at Teifi Marshes from 27 July to 3 Sept.; Castlemartin Corse on 6-7 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Malltraeth Cob pool on 3 Oct.; FLINT: Gronant Dunes on 17 Aug.

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**NIGHT-HERON** *Nycticorax nycticorax* CREYR NOS

*Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 51 previous records.*

GOWER: adult at Burry Pill on 14 Sept.

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**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis* CREYR GWARTHEG

*Uncommon, but increasing, visitor from Europe: 143 previous records. Nested just over the Flintshire border at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands in 2017 and 2019.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 265 | 163 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 1% | 1% |

It is becoming difficult to determine how many birds are involved in sightings, especially in southern Wales, but it could be that as many as 60 were present in 2020. Counts of 10 birds in E.GLAMORGAN in July, FLINT in September and PEMBROKE in November are the largest flocks recorded in Wales, but there is no way of knowing whether this was a single mobile group.

Singles unless stated: GWENT: seven at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 30 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 10 perched on bushes at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 18 July, with one present the next day; Kenfig on 29 Sept. and 22 Oct.; Flemingston Moor on 4 Oct.; Cog Moors, Sully, on 24 Dec.; GOWER: Staffal Haegr on 13, 15 and 26-27 March, 18 and 30 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd in July, with three here in Oct. and five on 5 Nov.; two at Banc y Lord on 5 Sept.; Kidwelly Quay on 9 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Carew Millpond on 21-22 April; Nevern est. on 5 Nov.; along the Pembroke River, six on 4 Nov., seven on 13th and 10 on 5th; CEREDIGION: Capel Bangor on 21 Oct. and two here on 22nd; RADNOR: two along the R.Wye between Llowes and Clyro in Sept.; Penybont on 19 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Llyn Traffwll on 12-25 Feb.; three at Ynys Leurad, Inland Sea, and then at Valley on 14 April; Cemlyn on 26 May; FLINT: 10 at Shotwick on 17 Sept. and five here on 19th; Rhyl on 16 Aug. and 15-19 Nov.

**GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea* CREYR GLAS

*Fairly common resident species. The BTO Heronries Census estimated 797 (694-951) AON in 2019 and showed declines of 36% since 1935 and 22% during 2008-18. Count unit is Apparently Occupied Nests (AON). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 4840 | 3960 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 20% | 18% |

COVID-19 restrictions made visits to many colonies impossible. E.GLAMORGAN: at least 24 AON in four heronries; GOWER: 10-12 AON in seven heronries; CARMARTHEN: at least one pair bred at Pembrey CP; PEMBROKE: 10 AON at three heronries; BRECON: seven AON at Glasbury; one nest at Bailihelyg Res.; MONTGOMERY: 28 AON at The Flash, Welshpool; MEIRIONNYDD: six AON at Hengwrt, Llanelltyd; CAERNARFON: 14 AON at Glynllifon in March.

Grey Heron eating a Brown Rat (Oscar Wainwright)

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=10 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=10 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gwendraeth estuary | | | | | | 6 | 2 | 8 | 21 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 19 | 10 | 19 | | | 19 | 10 | | 19 | 16 | 14 | 4 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 18 | 10 | 9 | | 3 | | 20 | 3 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 12 | 22 | 39 | | | | | | 14 | 10 | 8 | 11 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Conwy estuary | 21 | 12 | 5 | | | | 7 | 7 | 23 | 12 | 14 | 20 |

Counts >=10 away from breeding colonies: E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Glamorgan Canal, Whitchurch, on 2 Jan.; 12 at Coryton Woods on 7 March; 12 at Cog Moors, Sully, on 28 Dec.; GOWER: 22 at Old Park Farm, Margam, on 3 March and 20+ here on 13th; 18 at Eglwys Nunydd Res. on 1 July; CARMARTHEN: 12 at Pwll fishing lakes on 5 Feb.; BRECON: 18 at Garth Lake on 20 Feb.; CAERNARFON: 11 in Menai Strait on 17 Jan.; 11 at Porthmadog Cob on 15 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 17 at Church Island on 19 Dec.

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**PURPLE HERON** *Ardea purpurea* CREYR PORFFOR

*Scarce visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 72 previous records.*

E.GLAMORGAN/GOWER: 2CY at Kenfig saltmarsh on 21-26 April; ANGLESEY: RSPB Cors Ddyga on 6-9 Sept.

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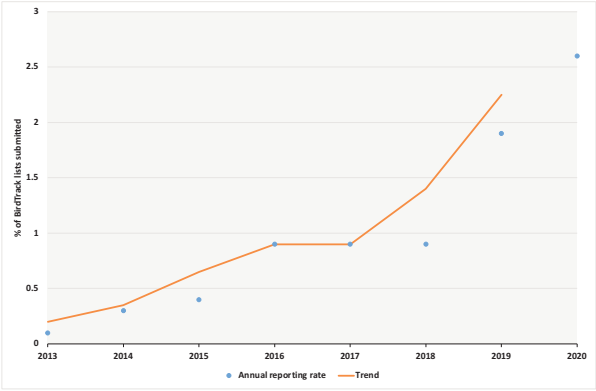
**GREAT WHITE EGRET** *Ardea alba* CREYR MAWR GWYN

*Uncommon but increasingly regular visitor at any time of the year. RBBP: no breeding attempts yet in Wales but bred on the Wirral side of the Dee estuary in 2019 and 2020.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 833 | 1028 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 3% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate reached its highest level yet, despite the lockdown, three times the level of 2016-18. It is no longer feasible to calculate accurately the number of individuals in Wales, and even in some counties, since birds will readily commute between wetlands some distance apart. A flock of 12 at Staffal Haegr, GOWER, in October is a Welsh record count, while birds in FLINT presumably formed part of the roost at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Wirral, which numbered up to 32 birds in November.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Great White Egret in Wales 2013-20**




Largest groups: GOWER: up to nine in Burry Inlet in first winter period (max. on 12 Jan.) and 12 in second winter period (max. on 4 Oct.); CARMARTHEN: eight at Kidwelly Marsh on 16 and 18-19 Sept.; CEREDIGION: five at Glandyfi on 20 Oct.; ANGLESEY: seven at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 22 Sept.; up to six at Llanerchymedd in early Nov.; DENBIGH: up to six at RSPB Conwy between 4 Aug. and 15 Oct.; FLINT: eight at Shotwick on 5 Jan.; six at Connah's Quay NR on 14 Aug.

Numbers in each county.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | | | 3 | | | 4 | 3 | 3 | | 1 | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | 2+ | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4+ | 1 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| GOWER | 9 | | 5 | 2 | | | | 1 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 6 |
| CARMARTHEN | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 7 |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3-4 | 4 | |
| CEREDIGION | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| BRECON | 4 | 4 | 3 | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| RADNOR | Recorded at 16 sites, at least five birds involved | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MONTGOMERY | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 5 | 10 | 4 | 1 |
| CAERNARFON | | | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| ANGLESEY | 4 | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 6 | |
| DENBIGH | | 1 | | | | | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 |
| FLINT | 8 | 5 | 2 | | | 2 | | 7 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 |

*CEREDIGION includes all records from Dyfi est.

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**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta* CREYR BACH

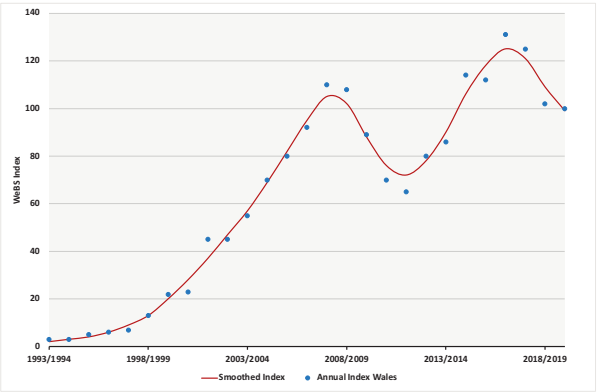
*Rare but increasing breeder - RBBP: 170 nests at 22 sites in 2019. Fairly common autumn migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **3911** | **3269** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **16%** | **14%** |

Breeding: COVID-19 restrictions made visiting many colonies impossible, but nonetheless it was possible to confirm the first breeding record in MONTGOMERY.

CARMARTHEN: at least 12 pairs bred at one site; PEMBROKE: two fledged juveniles on the Cleddau est. in July and Aug. suggested successful nesting nearby; BRECON: probably three territories but breeding still to be confirmed in the county; MONTGOMERY: pair fledged three chicks in Welshpool heronry, the first confirmed breeding in the county; MEIRIONNYDD: no evidence of breeding at Hengwrt colony but individuals were seen in the area; CAERNARFON: 43 adults and juveniles at Abercegin colony on 5 July; ANGLESEY: *c*.11 nests at Bodorgan; pair in a heronry at Wylfa but no evidence of breeding; FLINT: 23 AON at RSPB Pt of Ayr.

**Wetland Bird Survey: Little Egret in Wales 1974/75-2019/20**




Non-breeding: a couple of poorer years has resulted in a 21% fall in the Wetland Bird Survey index since 2016/17, but the long-term trend remains inexorably upward. The most important sites remain the Dee estuary (five-year average of 305 birds) and Severn estuary (236), and of those wholly within Wales, Traeth Lafan (134) and Burry Inlet (98).

Max. monthly counts at sites holding >=30 birds at least once during the year.

| *>=30 birds* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Llanrhidian/Staffal Haegr | 59 | 27 | 24 | 1 | 2 | | 14 | 25 | 80+ | 73 | 101 | 51 |
| Upper Loughor estuary | | | 8 | | | | 14 | 12 | 78 | 18 | 11 | 13 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penclacwydd | 6 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 13 | 26 | 117 | 61 | 31 | 9 | 5 |
| Gwendraeth estuary | 13 | 14 | 2 | | | 8 | 24 | 34 | 58 | 23 | 51 | 10 |
| Llangennech | 6 | 5 | 2 | | | 16 | 47 | 19 | | 22 | 19 | |
| PEMBROKE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cleddau estuary | 19 | 21 | 34 | 7 | 17 | 19 | 21 | | 72 | 65 | 34 | 14 |
| MEIRIONNYDD/CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Porthmadog | 7 | | | | | | | 2 | 40 | 4 | 13 | |
| CAERNARFON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Traeth Lafan | 17 | 11 | 21 | 6 | 17 | 14 | 50 | 75 | 70 | 56 | 7 | 9 |
| Foryd | 7 | 3 | 5 | | | | 22 | 32 | 40 | 15 | 4 | 9 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beddmanarch-Cymyran | 11 | 24 | 18 | | | | | | 61 | 48 | 7 | 15 |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Conwy | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 49 | 52 | 70 | 23 | 1 | 1 |
| FLINT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RSPB Oakenholt Marsh | 3 | 1 | 6 | | | | | 40 | 30 | 11 | 4 | 2 |
| Connah's Quay NR | 3 | 6 | 6 | | | | | 32 | 33 | 15 | 8 | 3 |

Other site maxima >=30: GWENT: 30 at Magor Marsh on 17 June; GOWER: 37 south of Loughor Bridge on 29 July; 40 at Penclawdd on 19 Aug.; 80+ at Llanrhidian on 18 Sept.; 33 at Salthouse Pill on 20 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 31 at Pwll WTW on 27 March; 50+ at Kidwelly Quay on 10 Sept.; 70 at Penclacwydd on 6 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 40 roosted at Cei Balast, Porthmadog, on 15 Sept.; *c.*70 at Aber Ogwen on 17 Sept.; ANGLESEY: min. 39 roosted in Newborough Forest in Dec.; DENBIGH: 70 at RSPB Conwy on 10 Sept.; FLINT: 38 at Rhyl on 21 July; 30 at Connah's Quay NR from 1 Aug. to 6 Sept.; 164 at Bagillt saltmarsh on 21 Sept.

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**OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus* GWALCH PYSGOD

*Rare breeder since 2004 - RBBP: five nests in 2019. Elsewhere, an uncommon passage migrant.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **220** | **153** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Five nests. MONTGOMERY: two male chicks fledged at Cors Dyfi; three male chicks fledged at Llyn Clywedog; MEIRIONNYDD: three chicks fledged at Pont Croesor; pair fledged three young at an undisclosed site; another pair summered in the southwest of the county; DENBIGH: one fledged at Llyn Brenig, which was killed at a neighbouring wind turbine in late summer.

Ringing: PEMBROKE: 1CY at Gann est. from 5 Sept. to 1 Oct. was ringed as a nestling near Elgin, Moray, on 10 July; ANGLESEY: at least three identifiable individuals on Cefni est., Dinas (fledged on Dyfi est. in 2018) throughout the summer, Diana (translocated from Scotland to Poole Harbour in 2018) on 10 June and a Scottish-fledged bird on 13 June.

Numbers present in each county, excluding at or near nest sites.

| *Monthly totals* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 1 | 3 | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 2 | 5 | 2 | | | 3 | 2 | |
| GOWER | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| CARMARTHEN | 1 | | 4 | | | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| PEMBROKE | | 4 | | | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| CEREDIGION | | 3+ | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| BRECON | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | | |
| RADNOR | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 3 | | |
| CAERNARFON | | 3-4 | | | | 3 | 2 | |
| ANGLESEY | | 3 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| DENBIGH | | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| FLINT | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | |

**HONEY-BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus* BODA MEL

*Rare breeder since 1992. Population estimated at 14-20 pairs but under-reported - RBBP: one pair in 2019. Rare on passage elsewhere. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **4** | **4** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Breeding: GOWER: 2-3 pairs bred; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-2 territorial pairs, but either failed or did not attempt to breed.

Single birds elsewhere: E.GLAMORGAN: 1CY over Pant Norton, Ogmore, on 16 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: over Pwll and Sandy WP on 26 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: Lake Vyrnwy on 26 July; CAERNARFON: two reported over Aber Falls on 16 July.

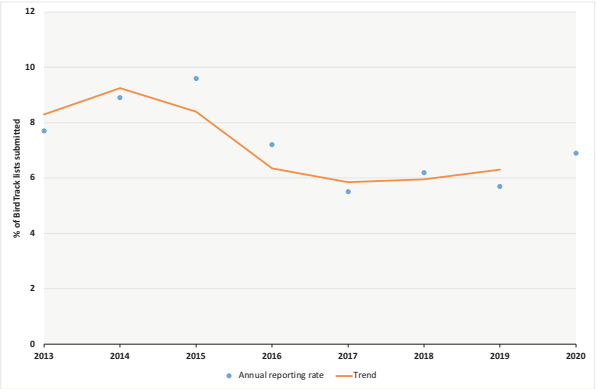
2019 BRECON: near Llangynidr, Usk valley, on 24 July.

**SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus* GWALCH GLAS

*Fairly common resident (2950 breeding pairs).*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **1596** | **1838** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **6%** | **7%** |

The UK Breeding Bird Survey shows a decline of 31% since 2000, and 17% since 2013, but no trend is produced for Wales. The BirdTrack chart shows a dip in reporting, but a more consistent rate in the last few years.




**BirdTrack reporting rate: Sparrowhawk in Wales 2013-20**

**GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis* GWALCH MARTH

*(Re)introduced (Category C) breeding resident, probably in all Welsh counties (310 pairs). RBBP: 44-105 pairs in 2019.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 204 | 262 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | 1% |

Breeding season records: COVID-19 restrictions made visits to many traditional breeding sites impossible. GWENT: six locations; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at four locations (nine young counted at three of these); birds displayed at two other sites; GOWER: three pairs bred and birds present at five other sites; CARMARTHEN: pair bred in the west of the county; PEMBROKE: records from 10 sites, including displaying pairs at two sites and a juvenile at another; CEREDIGION: six occupied sites in the north of the county; BRECON: breeding suspected at 22 locations; MONTGOMERY: two sites, including a juvenile at Llanfechan on 12 July; MEIRIONNYDD: 6-7 sites, including a pair with two downy young at Coed y Brenin on 11 June; CAERNARFON: three sites in March-April; DENBIGH: reported from Clocaenog Forest and at two other sites.

Selected records of single birds outside breeding season: CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd in Jan.-March, Aug. and Oct.; PEMBROKE: 22 locations; MONTGOMERY: 1CY at Dolydd Hafren on 19 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: reported at five locations; CAERNARFON: Bangor/Bangor Mountain in Jan., Oct. and Nov., including one that caught a Redshank on 26 Jan.; Caerhun on 14 Nov.; ANGLESEY: eight locations; DENBIGH: reported at Clocaenog, World's End and near Rhuthun; FLINT: Hendy Ponds on 21 Sept.

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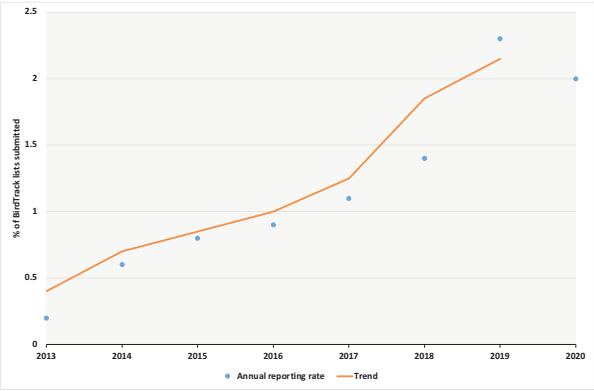
**MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus* BODA'R GWERNI

*Rare breeder - RBBP: five nests in three counties in 2019. Small numbers winter.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 646 | 535 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 2% |

Although the BirdTrack reporting rate remains low, it has been increasing steadily in line with the species' return as a breeding bird to Wales and expansion elsewhere in the UK.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Marsh Harrier in Wales 2013-20**




Breeding season: five pairs but confirmed fledging from only two nests. GWENT: pair bred successfully at Newport Wetlands Reserve; E.GLAMORGAN: pair displayed at Kenfig NNR, though no confirmation of breeding, immatures were reported here in autumn; GOWER: pair fledged three young at a site in Neath-Port Talbot; PEMBROKE: present all year at Castlemartin Corse but no breeding evidence; ANGLESEY: two pairs at RSPB Cors Ddyga, at least one of which fledged two young.

All records (away from known breeding sites during April-July).

| *Monthly totals* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| GOWER | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| CARMARTHEN | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| PEMBROKE | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2-3 | | 1 | 2 | 5+ | 3+ | 2 | 3 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| MONTGOMERY | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| CAERNARFON | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| ANGLESEY | 3 | | | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | 5 |
| DENBIGH | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| FLINT | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 4 |

Ringing: PEMBROKE: wing-tagged 1CY male at the Corse and Marloes Mere in Dec. had been ringed as a nestling on 7 June near Norwich.

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**HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus* BODA TINWEN

*Rare breeder in the uplands of north and mid-Wales. RBBP: 20-36 pairs in 2019. Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Red listed.*

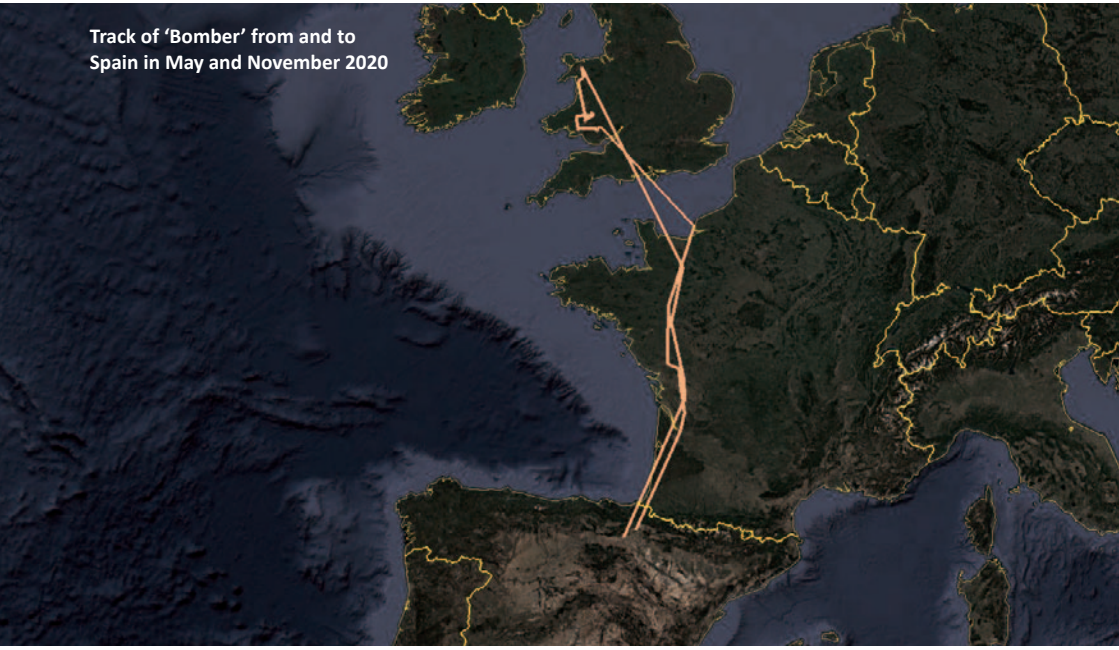
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **485** | **269** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **1%** |

There was limited monitoring owing to COVID-19 restrictions. 21 territorial pairs were recorded and 17 nests found, from which 31 young fledged, an average of 1.82 young/nest. In addition, two recently fledged juveniles hunted in suitable habitat from an unknown nest. Three chicks were fitted with GPS satellite tags by the RSPB in 2020, funded by Welsh Government.

Summary of other records for each county.

| *Monthly totals* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| GOWER | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| CARMARTHEN | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 3 |
| PEMBROKE | 1 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Dyfi estuary | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Cors Caron | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| BRECON | 4 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | |
| RADNOR | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| MONTGOMERY | | | | 1-2 | 1 | | | | 2 | | | |
| CAERNARFON | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| ANGLESEY | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 2 |
| Cefni Valley | 2 | 3 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 3 |
| DENBIGH | 3 | | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | |
| FLINT | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 |

Breeding: RADNOR: territorial pair but no evidence of nesting; MONTGOMERY: one nest failed at chick stage; MONTGOMERY/DENBIGH: pair fledged five chicks on the county boundary in the Berwyn; MEIRIONNYDD: 15-16 pairs (and two males in one area with no indication of breeding). From 11 nests monitored, min. 24 chicks hatched from 36 eggs, and 17 young (one of which was GPS tagged) fledged from six nests; CAERNARFON: four nests monitored, from which at least five chicks fledged (two failed at the chick stage and the outcome of the other was unknown). In addition, two recently fledged young from an unknown nest, but probably local origin, and three single birds; DENBIGH: three territories, but only one nest confirmed, from which four young fledged (one egg failed to hatch) and two were GPS tagged.




A female Hen Harrier (nicknamed 'Bomber'), tagged in 2019 as a nestling by the RSPB in the Migneint, MEIRIONNYDD, overwintered in northern Spain in 2019/20. In early May, she flew north through France, making a direct return from Normandy to Snowdonia on 9th, where she paired with a male and hatched chicks at a site in CAERNARFON. After the failure of the nest, she meandered through Wales, settled in the BRECON Beacons through October, and then crossed to France on 3 November. She continued south and by 18 November was in the same area of northern Spain as she had wintered previously, having flown almost 1000 miles in 15 days. She remained there until mid-February 2021 when the tag indicated that she had perished.

In addition, a male tagged ('Apollo') as a chick in Bowland, Lancashire, in 2019 had also spent his first winter in Extramadura, Spain. In 2020, he flew directly across the Bay of Biscay in a two-day flight from Spain to South Wales and was tracked north through the BRECON Beacons, across MOD Epynt and towards Llanwrtyd Wells on 7 May. By 15th, he was back in Bowland where he went on to breed and then returned to the same area of Extramadura for winter 2020/21. Only around 10% of tagged hen harriers leave Britain, to winter in either France or Spain.

**MONTAGU'S HARRIER** *Circus pygargus* BODA MONTAGU

*Rare summer visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 71 previous records during 1967-2019.*

E.GLAMORGAN: male at Merthyr Mawr dunes on 21 April.

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**RED KITE** *Milvus milvus* BARCUD COCH

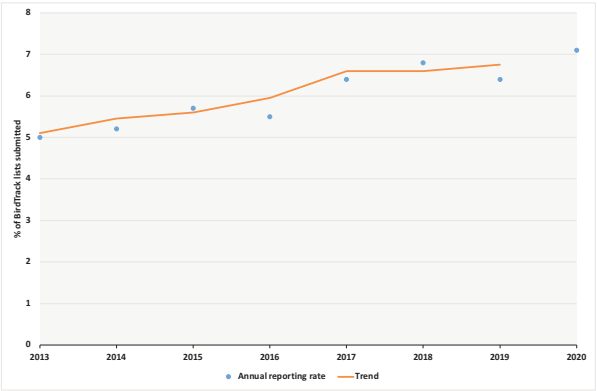
*Recovered population following near extinction early in the 20th century (1350 breeding pairs), although remains scarce within 30km of coast. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1865 | 1945 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 6% | 7% |

The Breeding Bird Survey showed the greatest increase of any species in Wales between 2018 and 2019, 413%. Likewise, the BirdTrack reporting rate reached a new high in 2020. The first confirmation of breeding on ANGLESEY means that Flintshire in now the only county without a Red Kite breeding record in the modern era.

Selected breeding records outside core area: E.GLAMORGAN: pair fledged three chicks; two fledged juveniles seen in Aug.-Sept. in the Vale of Glamorgan where a pair nested in 2019, but it was not possible to visit the site in 2020; possibly bred at two other locations; GOWER: bred at one site and probably at another in Neath-Port Talbot; present at a further 27 sites in the county; CAERNARFON: bred at Trefriw; ANGLESEY: pair nested at Talwrn, the first proven breeding in the county.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Red Kite in Wales 2013-20**




Large counts included: CARMARTHEN: 23 at Tumble on 27 May; CEREDIGION: up to 250 reported at feeding stations; BRECON: 41 at Defynnog roost on 26 Jan. and 36 here on 12 Nov.; RADNOR: 200 at Gigrin Farm in Feb. and 300 in Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 30 at Forge, Machynlleth, on 12 Aug.

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**BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans* BARCUD DU

*Rare visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 24 previous records.*

CAERNARFON: one over Bardsey on 24 April was the same individual photographed over Harrogate, North Yorkshire, two days previously, based on wing moult and damaged primary feathers.

**BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo* BWNCATH

*Fairly common and widespread breeding resident (9850-13,500 pairs).*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 6611 | 6516 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 27% | 29% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate has remained steady, recorded on 27.2-31.1% of all lists submitted since 2013.

Large counts: GWENT: 41 over Osbaston on 1 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 44 at Meidrim on 5 Jan.; BRECON: 27 worming in fields close to Screthrog on 3 April; CAERNARFON: flock of 14 over Bardsey, which headed off high to the northeast, on 30 Aug., and nine here on 10 Sept. and 1 Oct.; 16 over Bangor Mountain on 19 Oct.

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**BARN OWL** *Tyto alba* TYLLUAN WEN

*Uncommon breeding resident in all counties (633-728 pairs). Population probably stable in the long term, but numbers vary considerably. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 132 | 109 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Barn Owl and Carrion Crow (Don Cardy)

Breeding: COVID-19 restrictions made visits to many traditional nests impossible. E.GLAMORGAN: pair bred in a nest box in the east of the county, at Wentloog Level and suspected at Llangynwyd; GOWER: bred at Brynmoel Farm, Killay, and at eight sites in Neath-Port Talbot, where 19 chicks were ringed; CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred at Penclacwydd; pairs at two other sites; PEMBROKE: reported from 20 locations but breeding confirmed at only two; BRECON: two confirmed nests; MONTGOMERY: 44 successful nests, from which 157 chicks fledged (Montgomery Barn Owl Group) and 81 fledged from 22 nests (Species Habitat Protection Group), an average of 3.6 chicks/successful nest; MEIRIONNYDD: at least four breeding pairs; CAERNARFON: confirmed at two sites; ANGLESEY: two pairs bred successfully in the Aberffraw area; pair bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga; DENBIGH: 34 pulli ringed from 14 nests (average 2.43 young/successful nest); FLINT: five sites.

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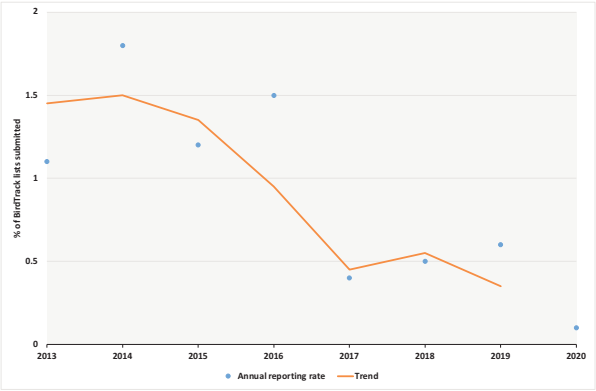
**LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua* TYLLUAN FACH

*Introduced (Category C), localised and declining breeding resident (250-300 pairs).*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 168 | 57 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate reached a new low in 2021, occurring on just 0.1% of lists submitted. Records in bird reports came from 30 sites, but breeding was confirmed at only two, with probable breeding at five others.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Little Owl in Wales 2013-20**




Singles unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 7 March; E.GLAMORGAN: pair copulated at Ogmore-by-Sea on 15 March; two at Southerndown on 30 June; two at Rhaslas Pond on 23 March; two at Monknash on 14 Sept.; at three other sites, but only at Ysgubor y Warren in breeding season; GOWER: Afan Forest Park on 29 Jan.; Eagle Street, Port Talbot, on 24 March; CARMARTHEN: Cilgwyn Manor Farm, Llangadog, on 10 Sept.; PEMBROKE: one territory on Ramsey (*cf.* two in 2019); three other sites in March or May; BRECON: Cradoc area in April-Oct.; MONTGOMERY: three territories around Wern, Arddleen, where one pair fledged two chicks; north of Caersws in Jan.-Feb.; near Trewern on 3 June; MEIRIONNYDD: Glan yr Afon on 13 June; Lower Tryweryn, Bala, on 13 Aug.; CAERNARFON: Mynydd y Gwyddel on 12 May; Pared Llechymenyn on 21 Sept.; Rachub on 14 Oct.; five males held territories on Bardsey, but only three in June (*cf.* three in 2019) and two juveniles known to have fledged; ANGLESEY: territories occupied at Cemlyn, Gadlys and Llanlleiana; DENBIGH: Holt on 12 June and 10 Sept.; Rossett on 30 June.

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**LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus* TYLLUAN GORNIOG

*Uncommon resident, perhaps c.100 breeding pairs, mainly in conifer woodland - RBBP: 7-11 pairs in 2019. Uncommon passage migrant in a broader suite of habitats. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 6 | 10 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Breeding: COVID-19 restrictions made visits to some traditional nesting sites impossible, but nonetheless six broods compares favourably to seven in 2019 and eight in 2018 (RBBP). The brood in CAERNARFON is believed to be the first on Pen Llŷn, while that in CARMARTHEN was the first recorded in the county since 1956.

GWENT: three successful breeding pairs at Mynydd Llanhilleth; CARMARTHEN: pair at Pembrey Forest fledged at least one chick; CEREDIGION: pair bred at an undisclosed site, where four juveniles called on 27 June; BRECON: territorial bird called at a traditional breeding site near Llanwrthwl on 16 July; CAERNARFON: pair fledged five young in Rhiw Woods.

Non-breeding records were singles unless stated: GWENT: Black Rock on 28 Aug.; CEREDIGION: one ringed at Llancynfelyn Common on 20 Feb.; BRECON: three roosted near Llangorse in Jan.-March, one remaining until 4 April; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 11 and 15 Sept., 17, 21 and 22 Oct.

**SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus* TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

*Uncommon breeding resident - RBBP: 10-19 pairs in 2019. Winter visitor and passage migrant in small numbers to all counties. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 267 | 148 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Breeding: PEMBROKE: three territories on Skomer, one pair failed but the others each fledged two young; pair bred on Ramsey; ANGLESEY: 2-4 in Aberffraw dunes during the summer, but breeding not proven.

Summary of other records for each county.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 2 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| GOWER | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| CARMARTHEN | 5 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 |
| PEMBROKE | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Dyfi estuary | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | |
| BRECON | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 |
| MONTGOMERY | | | | | | | | | | | | 10* |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| CAERNARFON | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | 2-3 | 3 | |
| ANGLESEY | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| Aberffraw | 15 | P | 3+ | P | | | | | | | | |
| DENBIGH | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| FLINT | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 | 2 | |

* 10 in the Llyn Mawr area, near Clatter, through Dec. and into Jan. 2021.

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**TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco* TYLLUAN FRECH

*Fairly common and widespread, but declining, breeding resident in all counties (2550-3800 pairs). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 588 | 557 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 2% |

Breeding season records: E.GLAMORGAN: breeding confirmed at 11 sites and possibly at a further two; GOWER: bred at five sites; PEMBROKE: bred at eight locations; BRECON: 14 confirmed breeding pairs; MEIRIONNYDD at least three breeding pairs reported; CAERNARFON: breeding confirmed at four sites.

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**HOOPOE** *Upupa epops* COPOG

*Uncommon but regular passage migrant to Wales.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 7 | 9 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

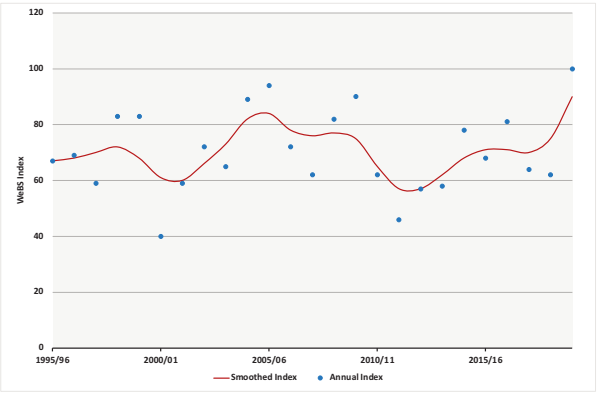
A typical spread of springtime records, plus only the sixth Welsh record in December. All were single birds: GWENT: Portskewett on 7-10 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Cenarth on 5 May; PEMBROKE: Cemaes Head a few days before 10 April; Haverfordwest on 5 May; CEREDIGION: Llanbadarn on 8 May; Dihewyd on 17 May; Ystumtuen on 2 June; MONTGOMERY: Lake Vyrnwy on 12 May; Llyn Clywedog on 15 May; near Clatter on 17 May; CAERNARFON: Morfa Nefyn on 14 May.

**KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis* GLAS Y DORLAN

*Resident in lowland areas (445-970 breeding pairs). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 901 | 1013 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 3% | 4% |

**Wetland Bird Survey: Kingfisher in Wales 1995/96-2019/20**




Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Cosmeston Lakes CP; pairs at Merthyr Mawr, Pwll Waun Cynon, Tirfounder Fields and on R.Cynon at Robertstown; GOWER: bred on R.Afan near Velindre and at Eglwys Nunydd Res.; CARMARTHEN: bred at Cilsan Bridge; PEMBROKE: reported from 50 locations, but breeding evidence at only three; CEREDIGION: bred on R.Teifi, where nine juveniles were ringed at Teifi Marshes in June and July; pair nested at Henllan; also present on R.Ystwyth near Llanilar and at Cwm Einion; BRECON: three breeding records; MEIRIONNYDD: bred on R.Wnion at Llanelltyd; possibly bred at north end of Llyn Tegid/Lower Tryweryn; CAERNARFON: bred on R.Cegin near Llandygai; possibly bred on R.Conwy at Trefriw and in Nant Ffrancon; DENBIGH: bred at Bodnant Garden and on Pentrebychan Brook, Rhosllanerchrugog; pairs at two sites and single at seven other sites in April-July; FLINT: single bird at four sites in June-July.

Non-breeding: the Wetland Bird Survey may not be very representative of the Welsh population but it is the only trend information available. It reached its highest value yet in 2019/20, thanks mainly to increases on the Severn and Cleddau estuaries.

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**BEE-EATER** *Merops apiaster* GWYBEDOG GWENYN

*Scarce visitor from Europe. WBRC: 67 previous records.*

CAERNARFON: 13 at Mynydd Rhiw on 9 May, three of which were subsequently ringed. This is the largest flock recorded in Wales.

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**WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla* PENGAM

*Uncommon but regular passage migrant, chiefly to coastal counties in autumn.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 27 | 22 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Breeding season: CEREDIGION: two around Cwmystwyth between 14 May and 2 June. This is the first indication of possible breeding in Wales since a pair in Glamorgan in 1913, and in a county with no previous breeding records.

A minimum of 18 birds, all singles unless stated: GOWER: 1CY ringed at Oxwich on 6 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 12-27 Sept. and two here on 15th; found dead at Tavernspite, Llanteg, on 19 Sept.; RADNOR: Newchurch on 5 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 15 April, 15, 22, 23 and 28 Aug., 3, 5, 9, 15 and 18 Sept. and two on 8 and 17 Sept.; Aber Ogwen on 5 Sept.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dryobates minor* CNOCELL FRAITH FACH

*Rare breeding resident (105-320 pairs), principally distributed in the lowlands and along the main river valleys. RBBP: 19 territories in 2019. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 24 | 21 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Records from 12 sites in the breeding season (March-July): GWENT: Magor Marsh on 22 March; Llanishen on 27 March; drumming male near Osbaston on 4-6 April; GOWER: Clyne Valley on 25 March; Morfa Glas on 27 and 30 March; Upper Neath Valley on several dates in early April; CARMARTHEN: two pairs bred in the Bran Valley, including a nest at Cynghordy that contained five eggs from which four young fledged; CEREDIGION: two pairs at RSPB Ynys-hir/Ynyshir Hall; Coed y foel, Llandysul, on 3 March; Llangwyryfon on three dates during 8-22 March; RADNOR: two at Maesgwyn Farm on 25 March; FLINT: Bagillt on 25 March and 26 May.

Single birds at other sites outside the breeding season: CEREDIGION: Aberaeron on 14 Sept.; BRECON: Pentwyn Farm, Llanfrynach, on 30 July; CAERNARFON: Afonwen on 1 Dec.; Foelas Estate, near Padog, on 15 Dec.

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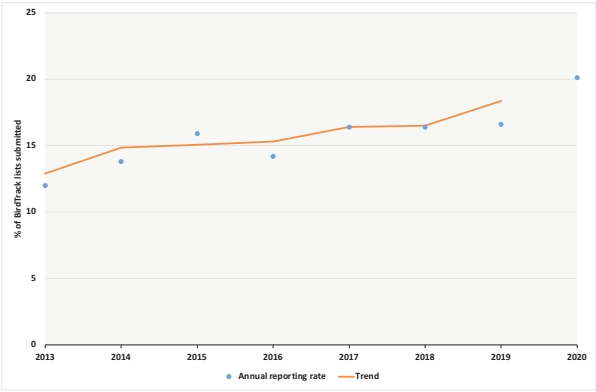
**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major* CNOCELL FRAITH FAWR

*Fairly common breeding resident (21,500 pairs). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3840 | 4351 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 17% | 20% |

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Great Spotted Woodpecker in Wales 2013-20**




The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales increased by 235% during 1994-2018, and an increase in the BirdTrack reporting rate is also evident, although the higher total in 2020 may reflect the greater proportion of lists submitted from gardens and woodlands while travel restrictions were in place. In Radnorshire, confined to ringing birds in his garden near Llandrindod Wells for much of the year, Tony Cross recorded 30 different Great Spotted Woodpeckers between April 2020 and January 2021.

Migration: CAERNARFON: up to three birds at any one time on Bardsey, though as many as seven individuals thought to have been involved in the 11 records during 14-30 Sept.; recorded on 22 dates in October, mostly 1-3 birds, but four on 16 Oct. and eight on 17th, a record for the island.

**GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis* CNOCELL WERDD

*Uncommon breeding resident (3,350 pairs). Formerly more widespread, but declining in western counties, Montgomery and Radnor. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1173 | 1540 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 5% | 7% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index is 27% lower than in 1994, although was very similar in 2019 to 2013. The BirdTrack reporting rate during that recent period has ranged between 3.9% in 2014 and 6.9% in 2020.

Breeding: E. GLAMORGAN: confirmed at 10 sites, pairs in suitable habitat at another eight and calling birds at a further 25 locations; GOWER: bred at four sites and probably at a further six; CARMARTHEN: reported from 16 sites; CEREDIGION: single birds between Pisgah and Aberffrwd on 6 May, Trecregin Ganol, near Llangrannog, on 6 May, Talybont on 7 June and Cors Caron on 9 Aug.; BRECON: 4-5 territories around Glyn Tarell, near Libanus; three territories in the Usk Valley, east of Brecon town; bred successfully at three sites elsewhere and present at 10 others; MEIRIONNYDD: Gwaith Powdwr on 25 April; CAERNARFON: bred at Hafan y Môr, Penychain; DENBIGH: bred at Rhewl and Hafodty, near Llansilin; pairs at three sites and present at 19 others in April-July; FLINT: single birds at six sites in April-June.

Single birds, unless stated, outside the breeding season, in counties where breeding is restricted or rare: PEMBROKE: Hook on 17 Oct.; Moylegrove on 29 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Ystumtuen in Jan.-March; Maesllyn Pool on 12 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Waen yr hydd on 13 Sept.; pair at Ynys Crossing on 25 Nov. and 22 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Pentraeth on 23 July; FLINT: three near Little Pengwern on 13 March; two at Broughton on 24 Nov.; singles at four other sites.

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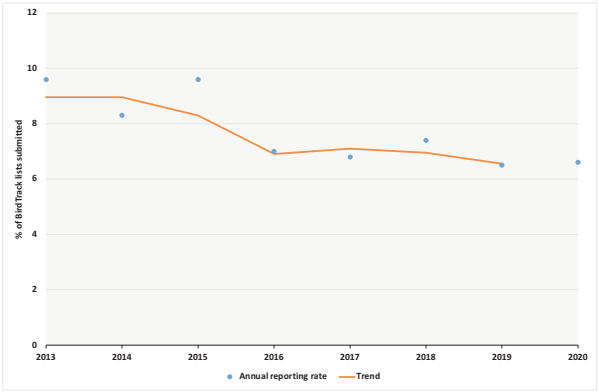
**KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus* CUDYLL COCH

*Uncommon and declining resident (1750 breeding pairs). Partial and passage migrant to some counties in small numbers. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1717 | 1678 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 7% | 7% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has fallen by 42% since 1995, but the species is now too scarce for a trend to be generated for Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been more stable over the last five years, but is doubtless well below what it would have been were data available for previous decades.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Kestrel in Wales 2013-20**




Incomplete breeding information includes: GWENT: bred at Pwll du; E. GLAMORGAN: confirmed at six sites and possibly at a further two; GOWER: bred at three sites and probably bred at one other; present at 15 other suitable sites; CARMARTHEN: three records during the breeding season; PEMBROKE: present at 80 locations but confirmed only at Aberforest and Marloes, and possibly at four others; CEREDIGION: bred near Pumlumon and New Quay and in nest boxes in five other locations, at which 14 young fledged from three nests; BRECON: two territories (and evidence of breeding at three sites in adjacent counties);

MONTGOMERY: two pairs around Llyn Mawr bred successfully in nest boxes; pair fledged four young on Middletown Hill; MEIRIONNYDD: four sites; CAERNARFON: 18 sites, but none with breeding evidence; ANGLESEY: bred at Soar and Pt Lynas; DENBIGH: bred at Moel Arthur, possibly at three sites and singles present at 21 others; FLINT: probably bred at Connah's Quay NR; pairs at seven sites and singles at *c*.26 others.

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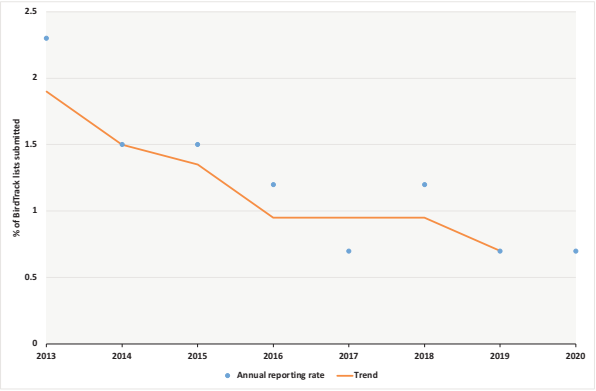
**MERLIN** *Falco columbarius* CUDYLL BACH

*Rare breeding resident in the uplands - RBBP: 17-25 pairs in 2019. Elsewhere, an uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **244** | **218** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

There is no information on the current size of the Merlin population in Wales, or elsewhere in the UK, but the BirdTrack reporting rate indicates that it is seen infrequently by birdwatchers, in or outside the breeding season.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Merlin in Wales 2013-20**




Breeding season records: GWENT: possibly bred at one site; GOWER: probably bred at one location; CEREDIGION: pair bred in the north of the county, one chick still in the nest 22 July (the other three died); BRECON: three territories occupied; MONTGOMERY: four fledged from a nest on moorland above Lake Vyrnwy; pair on a different part of the Berwyn failed to settle; MEIRIONNYDD: two territories, from which one pair fledged four young and the other did not settle; CAERNARFON: reported in the Carneddau; juvenile west of Moel Siabod on 16 June.

Summary of other records for each county.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | | | 3 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| GOWER | 2+ | 1+ | 1+ | | | | | | | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| PEMBROKE | 5 | 1 | 4+ | 5+ | 1 | | | | 2 | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| CEREDIGION | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| BRECON | 18 | | | | | | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| MONTGOMERY | | | 1 | | | | | | | 3 | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| CAERNARFON | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 4 | 1 | |
| Bardsey | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 | 2 | | |
| ANGLESEY | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| DENBIGH | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 1 |
| FLINT | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | |

**HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo* HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

*Rare but increasing breeder (205 pairs) - RBBP: 28-61 pairs in 2019. Uncommon passage migrant elsewhere. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **101** | **133** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

The BirdTrack reporting rate remains under 0.5% of lists submitted. Breeding evidence: E.GLAMORGAN: pairs at two locations but breeding not proven; GOWER: probably bred at two sites; CARMARTHEN: 1-2 pairs bred in central Tywi Valley; elsewhere, one confirmed and one pair possibly bred; CEREDIGION: one pair bred unsuccessfully; up to three at Cors Caron in Aug.; BRECON: bred near Llangasty and possibly at a further 11 locations; MONTGOMERY: pair bred successfully above Mochdre, near Newtown; pair probably bred at Lake Vyrnwy; DENBIGH: pairs at Tŷ Nant and Fenn's Moss in early Aug.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 25 April | near Osbaston | | 14 Sept. | Newport Wetlands Reserve |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | **11 April** | **Salmon Leaps** | | 14 Oct. | Kenfig Pool |
| GOWER | no early spring records | | | 20 Sept. | Oxwich |
| CARMARTHEN | 21 April | Llangynor | | 25 Sept. | Kidwelly Quay |
| PEMBROKE | 9 May | Skokholm | | 22 Oct. | Porth Clais |
| CEREDIGION | 10 May | Longwood | | 26 Sept. | Llangwyryfon |
| BRECON | 4 May | Llangasty | | 23 Sept. | Llangorse Lake |
| MONTGOMERY | 22 May | Blackwood, near Berriew | | 30 Sept. | Pentre Llifior, near Berriew |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 24 May | Lower Tryweryn, Bala | | 30 Aug. | Cwm Cywarch |
| CAERNARFON | 27 May | Penrhyn Bay | | 14 Sept. | Bardsey |
| **ANGLESEY** | no spring records | | | **24 Oct.** | **RSPB Cors Ddyga** |
| DENBIGH | 27 May | Llandegla Moor | | 30 Aug. | Aberduna NR |
| FLINT | 10 May | Pen-y-cefn | | 19 Sept. | Rhuddlan |

Summary of other records for each county (none in CARMARTHEN).

| *Monthly totals* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT | 1 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 6 | |
| E. GLAMORGAN | 3 | 21 | | | 5+ | 1 | |
| GOWER | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| PEMBROKE | | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| RADNOR | | | | 1 | 3 | | |
| MONTGOMERY | | | | 3 | 5 | 3 | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | | |
| CAERNARFON | | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 1 | |
| ANGLESEY | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| DENBIGH | | 2 | 3 | 7 | 7 | | |
| FLINT | | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |

**PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus* HEBOG TRAMOR

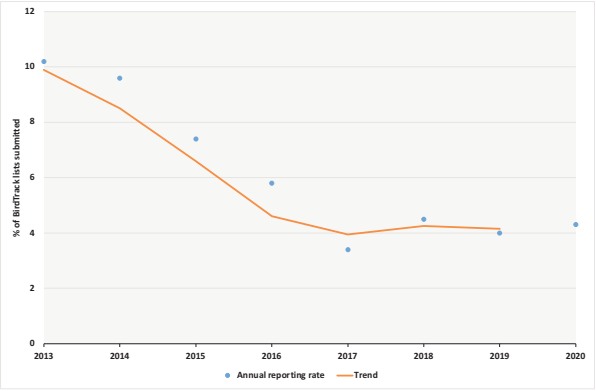
*Rare but declining breeder (279 territories in 2014) - RBBP: 111-170 pairs in 2019. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **1265** | **1270** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **4%** | **4%** |

The decline in known breeding pairs is also reflected in the encounter rate by users of BirdTrack, with the reporting rate in the last four years half the level of the previous four. Of 77 territories occupied, there was no

nesting attempt at 23 (30%), and at 52 nests monitored, 84 young fledged (average productivity 1.6, *cf*. 1.55 in 2019)

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Peregrine in Wales 2013-20**




Breeding: Covid-19 restrictions made visiting many traditional nesting sites impossible in 2020. Information from South Wales Peregrine Monitoring Group and bird reports (not complete surveys except Pembrokeshire): E.GLAMORGAN: 22 territories occupied (of 25 surveyed), with breeding at 15 from which a minimum of 32 young fledged; GOWER: nine fledged from three nests, and probably bred at one other site; CARMARTHEN: four territories occupied, with breeding confirmed at two, but only three chicks known to have fledged successfully; PEMBROKE: min. 34 occupied territories, of which at least 24 attempted to breed and min. 26 young fledged; BRECON: 17 eyries checked, of which 13 were occupied and from which 14 young fledged from eight nests; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at three sites; CAERNARFON: pairs apparently bred at two coastal and three inland sites; ANGLESEY: pair fledged two young at RSPB South Stack.

Nest failure: E.GLAMORGAN: one report of wilful disturbance in the north of the county on 12 April, following which the pair failed to breed successfully.

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**RED-BACKED SHRIKE** *Lanius collurio* CIGYDD CEFNGOCH

*Scarce passage migrant from mainland Europe. Former breeder, last in 2006. WBRC: 158 records since 1967.*

Six in a year, the same total as in 2019 which was the best year of that decade. PEMBROKE: female on Skomer on 28 May; female at Martin's Haven on 21 June; CAERNARFON: male on Bardsey on 2 June; ANGLESEY: male at Cemaes Bay on 29 May; male at Malltraeth Cob on 12 June; 1CY at Cestyll, near Cemlyn, on 14 Sept.

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**GREAT GREY SHRIKE** *Lanius excubitor* CIGYDD MAWR

*Uncommon but annual winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 90 | 92 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Only seven during Jan./Feb., the lowest total since 2007. All single birds unless stated.

First winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: Garwnant from 18 Jan. to 20 March, probably a returning bird from winter 2018/19; GOWER: Afan Argoed on 13 Jan.; near Bryn on 28 Jan.; CARMARTHEN: Brechfa on 7-15 March; PEMBROKE: Plumstone Mountain on 5-26 March; BRECON: Llangorse Lake from 26 Dec. 2019 to 19 Feb. and probably the same at Buckland Hill on 8-9 March; Usk Res. on 20 Feb.; RADNOR: at two sites in Jan. and Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD/DENBIGH: Craig Bron Banog on 21-22 March.

Second winter period: GOWER: Afan Forest Park on 23 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Brechfa from 19 Oct. into 2021, possibly the same bird as in March; PEMBROKE: Skomer on 7 Nov., the fourth island record; CEREDIGION: Cross Inn Forest on 3-19 Nov.; near Llyn Brianne on 7 Nov.; BRECON: Buckland Hill on 4 Nov., assumed to be the same bird returning for its third winter; RADNOR: at three sites in Oct., two in Nov. and three in Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: Pennal on 23 Oct.

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**WOODCHAT SHRIKE** *Lanius senator* CIGYDD PENGOCH

*Scarce migrant from southern Europe. WBRC: 124 previous records.*

CAERNARFON: 2CY female on Bardsey on 29 May; DENBIGH: male at Rhuddlan on 30 July; FLINT: Hawarden on 23 May.

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**GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus oriolus* EURYN

*Scarce migrant from southern Europe, usually as a spring overshoot. WBRC: 219 previous records.*

GOWER: singing male in Neath Valley on 1 June.

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**JAY** *Garrulus glandarius* SGRECH Y COED

*Fairly common and widespread resident (35,500 territories), though scarce in west Llŷn and much of Anglesey. Autumn/winter influxes from the east occur irregularly. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2794 | 2997 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 12% | 14% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached its highest level in 2019, 52% above its 1994 level. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been more steady, with the 2020 figure well within the range of the years since 2013.

Counts >=10: GWENT: 10 at Chepstow Park Wood on 6 Oct.; BRECON: 10 at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 22 March; 10 at Ystrad Fawr on 12 Nov.

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**MAGPIE** *Pica pica* PIODEN

*Fairly common and widespread resident (79,500 territories). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 11013 | 11060 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 50% | 55% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 43% below the 1994 baseline, and the BirdTrack reporting rate had also been falling up to 2020, although perhaps picked up as a result of a lower proportion of lists being collected in the tree-less uplands as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions. On Bardsey, CAERNARFON, eight pairs raised 23 young, (*cf*. 10 pairs and 28 young in 2019), the fourth consecutive year in which the population has fallen.

Counts >=20: GWENT: 60 between Hafod Farm and Brynmawr on 8 April; 25 at Blackwood Park on 11 Oct.; 43 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 6 Dec.; 40 at Brynmawr on 20 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Kenfig NNR on 2-4 Jan. and 31 here on 6 Feb.; 27 at Abercwmboi Lake on 20 Jan. and 33 roosted here on 6 Feb.; 20 at Cardiff Bay on 23 Jan.; 32 at Tonteg on 1 Feb.; 23 at Hirwaun on 11 Feb.; 25 at Dare Valley CP on 16 Feb.; 28 at Yr Ysfa on 21 Feb.; 25 at St Fagans on 1 Oct.; 22 at Kenfig NNR on 4 Dec.; 20 at Pontcanna-

Llandaff Fields on 14 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 37 at Teifi Marshes on 3 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 21 at Llyn Fanod on 15 March; BRECON: 20 at National Park Visitor Centre, Mynydd Illtyd, on 15 March, and 41 roosted here on 21st; CAERNARFON: 51 on Bardsey on 30 Oct. included a flock of 31; DENBIGH: 70 in Acton Park, Wrexham, on 15 Feb.; FLINT: 28 by Clwyd est. on 19 Jan., and max. 31 nearby at Rhyl Brickfield Pond on 13 March; 20 at Connah's Quay NR on 7 Feb. and 22 here on 14 March.

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**CHOUGH** *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* BRAN GOESGOCH

*Uncommon resident, mainly on cliff coasts of the western seaboard (252-278 pairs in 2014). RBBP: 225-255 pairs in 2019. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1471 | 824 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 6% | 3% |

Breeding season: the number of pairs in PEMBROKE was two fewer than in 2019, but the number with eggs and young, and the number of nests from which young fledged, were all higher than in 2019. Productivity (2.8 young/successful nest) was just above the 29-year average, and the min. number of fledged young was a new record. Although only half the usual number of nests in North and mid-Wales could be visited for ringing, those that were contained a mean 2.9 young, although it is thought likely that some nests were lost at low coastal sites during southwesterly gales in mid-May. After this, however, warm and dry weather would have reduced total nest losses from driving rain and allowed adults to spend more time foraging rather than brooding young.

| | Occupied territories | Nests | Nests from which young fledged | Min. no of young fledged | Young fledged/ successful nest |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GOWER | 4 | 7 nests/pairs; two nests each fledged two young | | | |
| PEMBROKE | 73 | 70 | 61 | 169 | 2.8 |

E.GLAMORGAN: two adults fed four juveniles on the Heritage Coast on 23 June, with a third adult nearby.

Monitoring by the Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, with additional data from Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory:

| | Nests[1] | Broods ringed | Young ringed | Young/brood ringed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CEREDIGION | 19-30 | 5 | 14 | 2.8 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 10 | 1 | 3 | 3.0 |
| CAERNARFON | 82-91 | 11 | 32 | 2.9 |
| ANGLESEY | 42-44 | 12 | 36 | 3.0 |
| DENBIGH | 2 | 0 | 0 | na |

[1] Range shows min. (confirmed and probable pairs) to max. (with possible breeding pairs added).

Non-breeding: the count of non-breeding birds in PEMBROKE in spring was an increase on the 2019 estimate; on Llŷn, CAERNARFON, 91-92 photographed on 21 Sept. was the largest flock ever recorded in Wales. The Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project reported good survival of juveniles through summer and autumn, as in 2019, which were the best years since 2004. Following a warm, dry spring, the cool and damp summer months provided good foraging conditions for juveniles.

Notable counts during Jan. to April. PEMBROKE: 72-84, chiefly 2CY and 3CYs, during spring, mostly on Ramsey, Skomer, Skokholm, St Davids peninsula, Marloes, Deer park and Freshwater West (Haycock and Hodges 2021); CEREDIGION: 18-20 roosted at Wallog on 25 Feb.; up to 26 at Pen Dinas/Tanybwlch in March and April; CAERNARFON: in addition to Bardsey (p.144), 48-50 roosted at Pared Llechymenyn on 5 March; 42 at Uwchmynydd on 23 March; 43 at Mynydd y Gwyddel/St Mary's Well on 31 March; ANGLESEY: 18-19 roosted at Church Bay on 27 Feb.

Notable counts during July to Dec.: E.GLAMORGAN: max. eight at Nash Pt on 29 July; nine at Sker Pt on 31 Oct.; GOWER: 20 at Langland Bay GC on 1 Oct.; PEMBROKE: roost counts at eight locations on 9-21 Sept. recorded max. 175, with largest concentrations of 65 on Ramsey, 22 on Strumble peninsula, 26 on Angle peninsula and 16 on Caldey; CEREDIGION: 19 at Mwnt on 6 July; 35 between Llanrhystud and Aberystwyth on 24 July; 19 at New Quay on 28 Aug.; 20 at Ynys Lochtyn on 8 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 35 at Tonfanau on 14 Sept.; 26 at Craig yr Aderyn on 19 Sept.; CAERNARFON: a flock around Aberdaron persisted from min. 65 in early July to min. 50. in late Dec., including a Welsh record 91-92 at Pared Llechymenyn on 21 Sept.; 67 at Mynydd y Gwyddel/St Mary's Well on 8 Aug.; 82 at Mynydd Bychestyn on 11 Dec.; Bardsey counts are tabulated below; ANGLESEY: 48 at Carmel Head on 9 Aug.; 40-45 roosted at Church Bay on 6 Sept.; 43 at Porth Tywyn-mawr on 17 Oct.

Max. monthly counts on Bardsey, CAERNARFON:

| | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bardsey | 16 | 12 | 13 | 33 | 36 | 21 | 69 | 46 |

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**JACKDAW** *Coloeus monedula* JAC-Y-DO

*Fairly common and widespread resident (155,000 pairs). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 10584 | 10381 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 47% | 52% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate recovered from its 2019 low point to a figure more typical of the previous few years.

Max. monthly counts from sites holding 300 or more at least once: GWENT: 400 at Pant-y-Goitre on 24 July; 1100 at Brynmawr on 20 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 500 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 3 Jan., 700 here on 27 Sept., 604 on 18 Oct., 500 on 8 Nov. and 350 on 7 Dec.; 598 at Pontcanna Fields on 13 Oct.; 300 at Sully on 20 Oct.; 500 at Rudry Common on 25 Oct.; 342 at Kenfig NNR on 5 Nov.; GOWER: 2500 at Baglan Pool on 5 Jan.; 1200 over Margam on 12 Jan. and 500 here on 19 Dec.; 800 over Briton Ferry in Jan.; 500 over Neath in Feb.; CARMARTHEN: 300 at Derwen Fawr, Llandybïe, on 20 July and 11 Aug. and 450 here on 15 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 404 at Pwllcaerog on 3 Jan. and 500 here on 26 Nov.; 700 at Lydstep Village on 31 Jan. and 500 here on 8-26 Nov.; 300 at Skrinkle Pill on 1 Feb.; 1000 at Angle Bay on 16 Aug.; 500 at Haverfordwest on 7 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 650 at Teifi est. in Jan.; BRECON: 300 at Bronllys in March; 400 over Brecon on 28 June; MEIRIONNYDD: 670 at Tonfanau on 16 Oct., the largest flock in the county for many years; CAERNARFON: 300 at Abergwyngregyn on 24 Nov.; 464 on Bardsey on 15 Oct.; FLINT: 450 at Connah's Quay NR on 28 Jan. and 400 here on 10 Feb.; 450 at Bagillt on 25 Sept.; 320 at Rhuddlan on 25 Oct.

A Jackdaw showing features of the Nordic form *C. m. monedula* was at Llandudno, CAERNARFON, on 5 Jan. The WBRC panel is not certain whether such records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether their plumage characteristics are within the normal variation of British Jackdaws.

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**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus* YDFRAN

*Fairly common resident, breeding mainly below 300m (35,500 pairs). The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2577 | 2590 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 11% | 13% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019 was 58% below its 1994 level, and so its Green-listed status is unlikely to remain for much longer, but surprisingly, the BirdTrack reporting rate has been increasing steadily since 2013, to 12.5% in 2020, its highest level yet.

COVID-19 restrictions hindered surveying, so numbers in most counties cannot be compared with other recent years: E.GLAMORGAN: 287 AON at 20 rookeries; GOWER: 87 AON at 12 rookeries; BRECON: 297 AON at 16 rookeries (*cf*. 263 at nine in 2019); MEIRIONNYDD: 37 AON at two rookeries; CAERNARFON: 68 AON at five rookeries; DENBIGH: 77 AON at eight rookeries.

Counts >=100 away from rookeries: PEMBROKE: 300 at Broad Haven on 23 Feb. and 24 Sept.; 348 at Pwllcaerog on 26 Nov.; BRECON: 170 at Ffordd Fawr on 12 Dec.; DENBIGH: 148 at Llewenni watermeadows on 20 Oct.; FLINT: 100 at St Asaph on 10 Feb.; 160 at Gwaenysgor on 11 April; 105 by Clwyd est. on 1 Nov.

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**CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone* BRAN DYDDYN

*Abundant and widespread resident (160,000 territories). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 14632 | 13725 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 65% | 68% |

The only site with comparable breeding information is Bardsey, CAERNARFON, where seven pairs nested, as in 2019, and 15 young fledged.

Counts >=100: GWENT: 110 at Osbaston on 15 Oct. and 186 here on 22nd; E.GLAMORGAN: 110 at Pontcanna Fields on 13 Oct.; 111 in Cardiff on 14 Dec.; GOWER: 110 at Crymlyn Burrows on 29 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 100 at Abermawr on 29 July; 200 at Landshipping on 18 Aug. and 29 Nov.; 100 at Lawrenny on 8 Sept. and 2 Dec.; BRECON: 110 at Dderw Pool on 28 Jan.; MEIRIONNYDD: 200 at Glandyfi on 22 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 100 at Wylfa Head on 12 April; FLINT: 110 at Connah's Quay NR on 11-12 Dec. and 130 here on 15th.

---

**HOODED CROW** *Corvus cornix* BRAN LWYD

*Uncommon and irregular wanderer to Wales, presumed from Ireland, and mainly to west coast in winter. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 237 | 180 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Single birds unless stated: GOWER: Southgate on 18 June, presumed same at Pwll Du Head on 22nd; CARMARTHEN: Llansaint between 5 Jan. and 18 Sept., the fifth county record; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. on 16 March and 15 June; Pencarnan on 26-30 March, presumed same on Ramsey on 30th; Skokholm on 8 April; Carningli on 24 May; St Davids from 28 June to 1 July; east of Strumble Head on 9-10 July and 5 Aug.; West Dale on 16 July; Goodwick on 14 Aug.; Porthlysgi on 17 Oct.; Heol Penlan on 13 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Penparcau on 4 April; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 25 March, two here on 26-27th, four on 4 April, 1-2 on several dates to 2-3 May, three on 17 Sept., two on 18th, and singles on 19 Sept. and 8 Oct.; Llanfairfechan on 13 July; Aberdaron on 5 Sept.; Morfa Madryn on 7 Sept., possibly same at Glan-y-môr Elias on 21 Sept.; Bangor on 1 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 2-3 around Holyhead and RSPB South Stack from Jan. to 9 Nov., incl. three at the latter on 7 June; Newborough on 23 Feb.; Valley on 3 April; Cemaes on 7 April; Hen Borth on 3 June; Cemlyn/Hen Borth between 19 Sept. and 10 Nov., with two on the final date.

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**RAVEN** *Corvus corax* CIGFRAN

*Uncommon but widespread resident (2,150 pairs). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 5182 | 4794 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 21% | 22% |

Roost counts (monthly max.) at Blaencanaid, E.GLAMORGAN

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blaencanaid | 63 | 86 | 23 | 36 | 106 | 67 | 114 | 182 | 245 | 220 | 29 | 51 |

Counts >=10: GWENT: 20 at Gwern Ddu on 13 Feb. and 34 on 13 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 12 at Parc Taf Bargoed on 12 Jan.; 11 at Merthyr Mawr on 30 Jan.; 16 at Cefn Rhos-gwawr, Aberdare, on 20 July; 10 at Llanwonno on 21 July; 35 at Whitchurch on 21 Sept.; 12 at Llwyn Coch on 11 Oct.; GOWER: 25 at Briton Ferry Wood on 4 Jan.; 22 at Port Tennant Refuse Tip on 4 Jan.; 24 at Weobly on 7 Sept.; 30 over Cwmavon on 7 Oct.; 30 at Foel Fynyddau on 17 Oct.; 22 near Cimla on 17 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 20 at Treffgarne on 13 Aug.; 19 at Sandy Haven on 18 Aug.; 40 on Skomer on 30 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 50 at Pistyll y Llyn on 27 Nov.; BRECON: 12 on Mynydd Llangatwg on 2 Sept.; 14 at Roman Road, Trecastle, on 11 Sept.; MONTGOMERY: 50 at Llandinam on 28 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 12 at Bettws Gwerfil Goch on 12 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 10 at Ysbyty lfan on 18 Jan.; 10 at Porth Ysgaden on 5 Sept.; 10 on Great Orme on 18 Sept.; 12 on Yr Wyddfa on 5 March; ANGLESEY: 14 at Amlwch on 22 Feb.; 65 near Mynydd Mechell on 7 May; 200 roosted at Newborough Forest on 6 Dec.; DENBIGH: 14 at Ffrith yr hirdir, south of Llanfair TH, on 4 April; 14 at Waenfechan Farm, northeast of Eglwysbach, on 6 Sept.

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**WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus* CYNFFON SIDAN

*Uncommon winter visitor, though annual numbers vary greatly.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **32** | **5** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Another couple of poor winters: these two singles bring the winter 2019/20 total to just three records and there were none in the second winter period.

E.GLAMORGAN: Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, on 5 March; CAERNARFON: Caernarfon on 26 March.

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**COAL TIT** *Periparus ater* TITW PENDDU

*Fairly common and widespread resident (75,000 territories), most numerous in conifer woodlands. Rare passage migrant.Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **4012** | **4239** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **17%** | **20%** |

Some of the records below indicate seasonal movements, including over Bardsey in late March, the Great Orme in mid-Sept. and Lavernock Pt in the first half of Oct.

Counts >=10: GWENT: 20 at Aberbeeg on 9 April, 19 here on 29 May and 24 on 10 June; E.GLAMORGAN: 26 reports included 20 at Garwnant on 11 and 28 Jan., 46 at Darwonno Forest on 19 Jan., 75 here on 1 Feb. and 42 on 8th, 20 at Pennsylvania Wood on 9 June, 18 at Lavernock Pt on 9 Oct., 15 here on 15th and 20 at Clydach Vale on 22 Nov.; GOWER: 12 at Pelenna Forest on 7 April; CARMARTHEN: 20 at Llyn Llech Owain on 22 March; PEMBROKE: 17 at Scolton Manor Park on 20 Aug.; 16 at Slade-Cashfield on 28 Aug.; BRECON: 10 at Brecon on 26 Feb.; 10 in Llaneglwys Forest on 6 March; MEIRIONNYDD: 10 at Tonfanau on 13 Oct.; 12 at Cwm Cywarch on 14 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 10 singing above Trefriw on 6 March; 17 on Bardsey on 27 March was the largest ever count in spring; 11 on the Great Orme on 19 Sept. and 17 on 20th; DENBIGH: up to 30 in Clocaenog Forest in late Jan. and 20 here on 29 Aug.; 10 at Bodnant on 6 Feb.; 12 at Aberduna NR on 30 May; 11 at Llanferres on 5 Nov.; 30 at Llyn Brenig on 5 Dec. and 10 here on 8th; FLINT: 10 at Nercwys Mountain on 27 April and 12 here on 27 Nov.; 10 at Marian on 24 May; 14 at Mold on 22 June; 10 at Pantymwyn on 5 Nov.

**MARSH TIT** *Poecile palustris* TITW'R WERN

*Uncommon and localised resident (4850 territories), probably declining throughout Wales and absent from large parts of the north and west. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 285 | 249 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 1% | 1% |

The proportion of BirdTrack lists including Marsh Tit has remained steady, at 0.9-1.3%, since 2013. It appeared to be a poor breeding season in most counties, but COVID-19 restrictions influenced recording.

Breeding season (mid-April to June): GWENT: present at seven sites; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at Castle Hill Woods and Pant-yr-Awel; GOWER: probably bred at Ilston Valley; 1-2 regularly at Upper Killay; one at Bishop's Wood on 19 April; CARMARTHEN: pair raised six young at Halfway; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence at one site; CEREDIGION: two pairs at Longwood on 21 April; two at Llangybi Common on 2 May; two at Falcondale Lake on 12 May; BRECON: 1-2 at 12 sites; bred at Lower Llangynidr and Drostre Wood; suspected near Llanddew and at Yr Allt, Sennybridge; CAERNARFON: pair displayed at Tal-y-bont on 25 April; DENBIGH: singles at Wrexham on 13 May and 24 June, Ruabon on 24 May and Afonwen on 28 June; FLINT: up to three at Padeswood from 19 April into June; one at Dyserth on 10 May; one at Pantymwyn on 15 May.

Non-breeding season, all single birds unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Cosmeston Lakes CP in Jan. and Feb., and from 22 Nov. to 27 Dec.; Pant-yr-Awel in Jan. and March; Coed yr Odyn on 28 Dec.; GOWER: 17 sites, including two at Barland Common on 29 March, four at Mill Wood on 7 July in two different parties, three at Langland Bay on 15 Sept., and 1-2 regularly in a Killay garden from Aug. to Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 11 sites; PEMBROKE: 26 sites; CEREDIGION: 12 sites including two at Nant Bryn Maen on 5 Feb., two at Coed Allt Fedw on 16 March and two at Crofftau on 31 Aug.; BRECON: nine sites in first winter period, including three in Pennorth; 1-2 at 12 sites in second winter period; RADNOR: Hendregenny on 9 Feb.; Llandrindod Wells on 8-10 March; Brynmawr on 11 Nov.; CAERNARFON: Bangor on 22 Jan.; Nant Gwynant on 15 Feb.; Trefriw on 22 Aug.; Llanbedr-y-cennin on 9 Dec.; DENBIGH: 1-2 at eight sites between Jan. and March; four at Fenn's Moss on 1 March; 1-2 at six sites between July and Dec.; FLINT: three sites between Jan. and early April; 1-2 at four sites between July and Dec.

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**WILLOW TIT** *Poecile montanus* TITW'R HELYG

*Uncommon, localised and declining resident (c.1540 pairs), mostly in west and central Wales. RBBP: 234 pairs in 2019. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 153 | 130 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Coverage of the RSPB/WOS/RBBP breeding Willow Tit survey exceeded expectations, with at least 250 tetrads surveyed in Wales. The COVID-19 lockdown on 23 March curtailed the 2020 field season by three weeks, with some observers reporting that they had delayed surveying due to poor weather in February. The survey returns show that the core range roughly covers north PEMBROKE, south CEREDIGION (particularly around Cors Caron), north CARMARTHEN, BRECON (north of the Brecon Beacons) and MONTGOMERY (particularly around Lake Vyrnwy). This shows a certain similarity to the *2007-11 Bird Atlas* distribution, although there is some evidence of declines in the south and north of the country and some decline in occupancy of tetrads with Willow Tit records in the 2007-11 Atlas or subsequently.

Breeding season (March-June) records in county reports: GWENT: two at Wentwood on 14 April and one here on 20 June; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at Pwll Waun Cynon NR; pairs at Garwnant, Hirwaun and Pwll Waun Cynon in March; possibly nested at seven other sites; GOWER: 4-5 pairs in Neath Valley; one in Cadoxton Woods on 30 May; CEREDIGION: recorded in 16 1-km squares; BRECON: possible family at Talybont Res. on 5 Aug.; MONTGOMERY: 53 territories, including seven at Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD:

1-2 territories in Corwen forestry; two pairs in Abergynolwyn area; three birds at Aberllefenni on 21 June; DENBIGH: one at Tregeiriog Forest on 14 April.

Outside the breeding season, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: two at Penderyn Res. in Nov.; two near Caerau in Nov.; four in Maesteg area in Nov.; four at Garwnant in Dec.; singles at eight other sites; GOWER: Aberpergwm in Oct.; 1CY ringed in Neath Valley on 24 Nov.; Pontlliw on 27 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: six sites; CEREDIGION: recorded in 31 1-km squares with a substantial population in Bronant/Cors Caron/Llangybi/Cross Inn Forest area; PEMBROKE: 10 sites including two family groups in Jan. and Feb.; BRECON: Battle Hill on 24 Jan. and a pair here on 26 Feb.; Yr Allt, Sennybridge, on 16 July; Pencelli on 25 July; seven in Glasfynydd Forest in Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: four sites in Sept.-Oct.; DENBIGH: two at Clocaenog Forest on 20 Jan. and one on 30 July; Fenn's Moss on 28 Jan. and 13 March; FLINT: Halkyn on 25 Jan.

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**BLUE TIT** *Cyanistes caeruleus* TITW TOMOS LAS

*Abundant resident (415,000 territories), most numerous in deciduous woodland but more widespread in winter. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 11344 | 11038 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 51% | 54% |

The increased reporting rate in BirdTrack may reflect the greater proportion of lists submitted from residential areas in 2020, but remains within the range recorded in the previous few years. However, COVID-19 restrictions prevented the monitoring of many woodland nestbox schemes.

Breeding information: CARMARTHEN: at Halfway, mean clutch size of 9.5 eggs and 8.2 fledged young/successful nest; at Cynghordy, mean clutch size 6.8, fledged 5.0, but six of 20 nests failed completely; BRECON: 123 chicks fledged from 19 nests at Coed Nant Brân (mean no. fledged = 6.47).

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**GREAT TIT** *Parus major* TITW MAWR

*Abundant and widespread throughout Wales up to c.500m above sea level except on small islands (255,000 territories). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 8767 | 8806 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 39% | 46% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate was the highest yet recorded, which may in part reflect the higher proportion of lists from residential areas and fewer from tree-less coasts and uplands. There was, however, very little monitoring of woodland nestboxes owing to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Breeding: BRECON: 12 chicks fledged from three nests at Coed Nant Brân (mean = 4.0); CAERNARFON: three pairs bred on Bardsey, the highest ever total for the island, with some multiple broods, min. 30 young fledged.

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**BEARDED TIT** *Panurus biarmicus* TITW BARFOG

*Breeds at Newport Wetlands Reserve (RBBP: three pairs in 2019) and occurs occasionally at other reedbeds in southeast Wales. Bred in Anglesey (1967-69) and Gower (1973-86). Elsewhere, rare autumn and winter visitor. Seven records away from Gwent and East Glamorgan since 2000. Wales Amber listed*.

The only records were from Newport Wetlands Reserve, GWENT. No breeding data are available, but the

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 92 | 30 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

highest provisional count was six on 18 Oct.

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**WOODLARK** *Lullula arborea* EHEDYDD COED

*Former breeding species; occurs in small numbers each winter.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 12 | 6 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

A typical spread of records, although the Anglesey record was only the fourth on the island, and the first since 2008. The 12 in East Glamorgan take the county total since 1990 to 86, of which 40% have been in autumns 2019 and 2020.

Non-breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: three at Lavernock Pt on 7 Oct., singles here on 15th, 19th and 20th and on 9 and 25 Nov.; two east at Dunraven on 14 Oct.; two at Rumney Great Wharf on 18 Nov.; GOWER: one at Oxwich Marsh on 17-18 Oct.; CAERNARFON: one north over Bardsey on 21 Sept. and three south on 15 Oct.; ANGLESEY: one at Carmel Head on 21 Oct.

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**SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis* EHEDYDD

*Fairly common and widespread but declining breeding species (115,000 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2915 | 2199 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 12% | 10% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate dipped to its lowest level yet, 9.6% in 2020, having been falling for several years, in line with the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, which in 2019 was 17% below its 1994 baseline.

Counts >=100: GWENT: 287 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Sept.; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Cwm Mawr on 13 Sept.; 250 at Newton on 5 Oct.; 100 at Sker Farm on 7 Oct.; GOWER: 262 at Pwllcaerog on 13 Feb. and 362 here on 26 Nov.; 100 at Dale Airfield on 23 Sept.; 200 in Martletwy area on 22 Dec.; 131 on Skokholm on 7 Oct. and 107 here on 22nd; BRECON: 120 in stubble at Pennorth on 2 Feb. and 100 here on 27th; 118 at Llanddew on 28 Feb.; 100 at Pennorth on 25 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 203 on Bardsey on 7 Oct. and 219 here on 15th; ANGLESEY: 160 at Hen Felin on 21 Oct.; 120 at Braint est. on 5 Dec.

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**SHORE LARK** *Eremophila alpestris* EHEDYDD TRAETH

*Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn, and rare winter visitor, from northeast Europe. WBRC: 290 individuals recorded.*

CAERNARFON: one on the south end of Bardsey on 30 May. There have previously been only single Welsh records in each of May and June.

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**SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia* GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

*Locally common breeding visitor, most numerous in eastern counties. Passage migrant elsewhere. The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1506 | 986 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 6% | 4% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate has ranged between 5.1% and 7.6% during 2013-19, but the 4% in 2020 is consistent with the lower rates of most species associated with wetlands, which appear to have received fewer visits in spring and early summer as a result of travel restrictions.

Breeding colonies (AON): GWENT: 35 at Llanwenarth; E.GLAMORGAN: 130-134 at 11 sites, similar to 2019 despite no counts at four sites; 18 at three other sites; CARMARTHEN: 108 at Burry Port; 15 at a new site between Burry Port and Pembrey Harbour; 150 on R.Tywi at Llangunnor; BRECON: eight at Bridgend; 3-5 at Penpont; one at Usk Res.; MEIRIONNYDD: 3-4 at Maentwrog Levels; CAERNARFON: 15 at Llanbedrog.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 21 March | Newport Wetlands | | 22 Sept. | Newport Wetlands |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | **5 March** | **Llanishen/Lisvane Res.** | | 3 Oct. | Edwardsville Woods |
| GOWER | 14 March | Sketty | | 3 Oct. | Swansea Vale |
| CARMARTHEN | 7 March | Sandy Water Park | | 12 Sept. | Penclacwydd |
| PEMBROKE | 18 March | Teifi Marshes | | 1 Oct. | Skokholm |
| CEREDIGION | 8 March | Teifi Marshes | | 30 Aug. | Tresaith |
| BRECON | 13 March | Llangorse Lake | | 25 Sept. | Libanus |
| RADNOR | 10 March | Glasbury | | 7 Oct. | Llandrindod Wells |
| MONTGOMERY | 23 April | Machynlleth | | 27 Aug. | Llyn Clywedog |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 20 March | Cynwyd | | 3 Sept. | Bala |
| CAERNARFON | 23 March | Bangor | | 23 Sept. | Pont Aberdesach |
| **ANGLESEY** | 17 March | Valley | | **11 Nov.** | **Cemlyn** |
| DENBIGH | 4 April | RSPB Conwy | | 13 Sept. | Llanrwst |
| FLINT | 5 April | Queensferry | | 6 Sept. | Flint |

The first in RADNOR was one day earlier than the previous earliest this century and the county's last record was 15 days later than the previous latest. The late ANGLESEY record, which is the latest in Wales this century aside from one in GWENT on 4 Dec. 2005, was also 15 days later than the previous latest in 2009.

Counts >=100: E.GLAMORGAN: 150 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 18 and 29 April, and 100 here on 3 July; 300 at Cardiff Bay on 19 April; 100 at Lavernock Pt on 16-17 Sept. and 200 here on 19th; CARMARTHEN: 250 at Sandy WP on 30 April; PEMBROKE: 100 at Pencarnan on 6 April; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 100 at Teifi Marshes on 19 March, 160 here on 6 April and 250 on 27th; BRECON: 350 at Llangorse Lake on 18 April, 200 here on 29th, 130 on 11 Aug. and 400 on 14th; MONTGOMERY: 100 at Aberhafesp on 29 April; MEIRIONNYDD: 200 at Ynys Saltings on 21 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 393 on Bardsey on 24 April and 155 here on 7 May; FLINT: 100 at Flint on 18 May and 150 on 17 July.

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**SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica* GWENNOL

*Fairly common and widespread summer visitor (82,000 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **5621** | **4541** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **23%** | **20%** |

Not withstanding the possibility of the 2020 BirdTrack reporting rate having been influenced by COVID-19 travel restrictions, it is worryingly in line with the 32% decline during 2013-19. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales declined by 31% during the same period. The only comparable nesting data came from CAERNARFON: eleven pairs nested on Bardsey, one more than in 2019, most pairs raising more than one brood, producing a minimum total of 57 young (69 in 2019). Nest sites in BRECON included a sentry box on MoD Epynt and a bus shelter at Aberbran.

Juvenile Swallow (Cameron Sharp)

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 1 April | Caldicot | | 20 Oct. | Undy |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 26 March | Blaen Rhymney Res. | | 9 Nov. | Lavernock Point |
| **GOWER** | **4 March** | **Bryn** | | **13 Dec.** | **Gowerton** |
| CARMARTHEN | 26 March | Drefach Felindre | | 13 Nov. | Kidwelly Quay |
| PEMBROKE | 18 March | Teifi Marshes | | 1 Dec. | Dale |
| CEREDIGION | 18 March | Teifi Marshes | | 1 Nov. | Teifi Marshes |
| BRECON | 2 April | Mynydd Illtyd | | 21 Oct. | Llanfihangel Talyllyn |
| RADNOR | 26 March | Glasbury | | 15 Oct. | Llyn Heilin |
| MONTGOMERY | 22 April | Dolydd Hafren | | 12 Oct. | Wern |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 27 March | Ynys Saltings | | 26 Oct. | Pont Croesor |
| CAERNARFON | 24 March | Bardsey | | 21 Oct. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 27 March | Holyhead Mountain | | 6 Dec. | Llangoed |
| DENBIGH | 5 April | three sites | | 8 Oct. | Holt |
| FLINT | 7 March | Halkyn | | 24 Nov. | Queensferry |

The latest of the year, in GOWER, was also the latest in this recording area this century, three days later than a bird in 2000.

Counts >=300 on autumn passage: GWENT: 316 at Undy on 20 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: 400 at Temple Bay on 14 Sept.; peak counts at Lavernock Pt of 1000 on 10 Sept., 3000 on 16th, 7000 on 17th, 1000 on 29th, 460 on 7 Oct. and 400 on 22nd; CARMARTHEN: 300 at Pembrey CP on 13 Aug.; 430 east over Penclacwydd on 6 Sept.; 1000 at Llanedi on 28 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 858 over Skomer on 10 Sept.; 1127 over Skokholm on 29 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 389 over Bardsey on 21 Oct.

Winter records: unlike in 2019, when there were Feb. records from four counties and Dec. records from five, this year there were just three records in Dec., all of which appear in the table above.

**HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum* GWENNOL Y BONDO

*Fairly common summer visitor (67,500 pairs). The count unit is apparently occupied nests (AON). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **2935** | **2754** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **12%** | **12%** |

The BirdTrack reporting rate declined by 16% during 2013-19, and slightly farther in 2020. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell by the same amount, continuing a decline underway since 2000.

Breeding: E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at 20 sites, including *c*.100 AON at Penarth Marina, many of which were not recorded in 2019; BRECON: 14 AON at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, all but one in artificial boxes, half of these at least attempting a second brood; one natural and 10 artificial nests at Cradoc; 13 AON in Defynnog; MEIRIONNYDD: 30 birds nest-building at Cwm Cywarch; CAERNARFON: on Bardsey, four AON at the lighthouse, but only one fledged young, and a pair at Plas were the first ever away from the lighthouse and fledged three young.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 11 March | Newport Wetlands | | 19 Oct. | Undy foreshore |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 26 March | St Athan | | 3 Nov. | Flat Holm |
| GOWER | 2 April | Rhossili | | 18 Oct. | Neath estuary |
| CARMARTHEN | 6 April | Llangennech | | 28 Sept. | Trimsaran and Llangadog |
| PEMBROKE | 21 March | Teifi Marshes | | 26 Oct. | St Florence |
| CEREDIGION | 21 March | Teifi Marshes | | 10 Oct. | Cwm Rheidiol |
| BRECON | 31 March | Groesffordd | | 2 Oct. | Sennybridge |
| RADNOR | 9 April | Llanelwedd | | 7 Oct. | Llandrindod Wells |
| MONTGOMERY | 4 April | Lymore | | 9 Oct. | Llanidloes |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 7 April | Bala | | 21 Sept. | Llyn Tanygrisiau |
| CAERNARFON | 5 April | Penrhyn Bay | | 21 Oct. | Bardsey |
| **ANGLESEY** | 18 March | Valley | | **10 Nov.** | **Carmel Head** |
| DENBIGH | 5 April | Llanferres | | 11 Oct. | Rhuthun |
| **FLINT** | **8 March** | **Padeswood** | | 13 Oct. | Caerwys |

The first of the year, in FLINT, was 13 days earlier than the previous earliest in the county this century, in 2014. At the other end of the year, the last seen in GOWER was two days later than the previous latest in the county.

Counts >=200: E.GLAMORGAN: 250 at Cardiff Bay on 15 Aug.; 500 at Lavernock Pt on 10 Sept., 800 here on 17th, 400 on 18th and 200 on 19th; PEMBROKE: 200 at Llanychaer on 13 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 300 at Ynyslas on 10 Sept.; BRECON: 460 at The Cwm, Llanwrthwl, on 8 Aug.

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**RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** *Cecropsis daurica* GWENNOL DINGOCH

*Rare visitor from southern Europe. WBRC: 32 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: one at Heathfield Gravel Pits on 20 April.

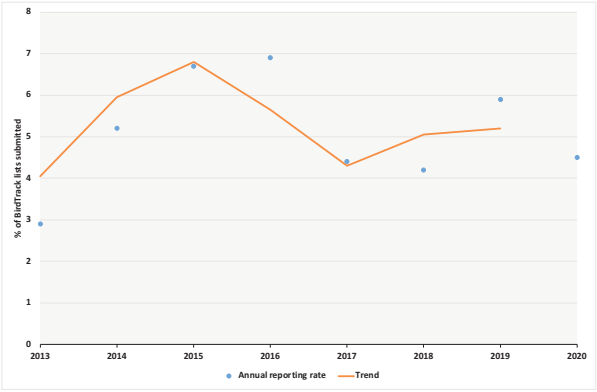
**CETTI'S WARBLER** *Cettia cetti* TELOR CETTI

*Uncommon but increasing resident (300-600 breeding pairs) in mid and south Wales and on Anglesey. Occasional away from core areas in winter. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1394 | 1019 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 6% | 5% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate had been recovering from setbacks in 2017 and 2018 related to cold winter weather, with the lower total in 2020 consistent with other species of wetland habitats, which is presumed to relate to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Cetti's Warbler in Wales 2013-20**




GWENT: 12 at Newport Wetlands Reserve in Jan. and five here in June; present at Magor Marsh; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at Kenfig NNR, where 10 singing birds were counted in March and Sept.; singing or on permanent territory at 21 other localities; 10 at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve in Oct.; GOWER: two pairs bred at Pant y Sais Fen; probably bred at eight other sites; up to five birds sang at Oxwich NNR, Eglwys Nunydd Res. and Margam Moors; CARMARTHEN: 57 singing males at 20 sites, including 18 at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: singing males at 10 sites, including five at Freshwater East; one on Skokholm from 17 Oct. to 2 Nov., during which time it was ringed; CEREDIGION: six territories at RSPB Ynys-hir; present all year at Cors Fochno/Ynyslas, and at Teifi Marshes in March and from Oct. to year end; RADNOR: four sites; BRECON: at least five territories at Llangorse Lake, where breeding was confirmed; MONTGOMERY: singles at Pwll Penarth on 22 March and 11-12 Sept.; CAERNARFON: one at Porthdinllaen on 20-30 May; ANGLESEY: bred at RSPB Cors Ddyga and RSPB Valley; regular at Llyn Maelog and Cymyran; two sang at Rhoscolyn on 8 May; DENBIGH: at least one at RSPB Conwy to late March, and 2-3 here through autumn; FLINT: up to three all year at Gronant, and nearby at Pt of Ayr/Talacre in Aug.-Oct.; three at Shotwick Fields on 17 March; singles at Shotton on 10 Feb. and 8 March, Deeside Ind. Park on 5 Sept. and Connah's Quay NR on 24 Sept.

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**LONG-TAILED TIT** *Aegithalos caudatus* TITW CYNFFONHIR

*Fairly common resident (28,000 territories), widely distributed except on parts of Llŷn and Anglesey, and rare on other islands. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3855 | 3916 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 17% | 19% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index in 2019 was 25% lower than in 2008, whereas the BirdTrack reporting rate has fluctuated. The rate in 2020 was the second highest in the eight years of reliable data.

Counts >=20: E.GLAMORGAN: 11 counts of 20+, including 30 at Forest Farm on 7 Jan., 35 at Newton on 5 Oct., 45 at Ogmore Castle on 10 Oct., 36 at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve on 29 Nov. and 33 at Parc Taf Bargoed Lakes on 12 Dec.; GOWER: 30 at Graig Fawr, Margam, on 11 Feb.; 23 at Crymlyn Burrows on 1 Oct.; 30 at Whiteford on 27 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 40 at Llanelli on 2 July; PEMBROKE: 27 at Pontiago on 23 June; 25 at Pencarnan Camp, St Davids, on 11 Oct.; 20 at The Bug Farm, St Davids, on 14 Oct.; 20 at

Ford Pill, Paskeston, on 29 Oct. and 12 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 30 at Caer Meirch on 11 Oct.; MEIRIONNYDD: 25 at Pennal on 18 July; DENBIGH: 22 in an Acton garden on 7 June and 52 here on 23 Aug.; 30+ at Erddig on 8 Oct.; 22 at Llanferres on 5 Nov.; 20 at Burton on 6 Dec.; FLINT: 26 at St Asaph on 11 June; 24 at Rhyl on 29 July; 20 at Pantymwyn on 6 Sept.; 20 at Talacre on 15 Oct.; 35 at Gwernymynydd on 29 Nov.

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**WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* TELOR COED

*Localised and uncommon, but declining, summer visitor to upland woods (2850 breeding males). Passage migrant in small numbers at coastal sites. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **298** | **161** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **1%** |

Singing males unless stated: GWENT: no nest data from Wentwood but two here, and at seven other sites in the west including Blaenavon valley, Aberbeeg, Cwmcarn Forest and Lasgarn Wood; two sites near Trellech in the east; E.GLAMORGAN: three territories and a nest at Pennsylvania Wood, Aberkenfig; and breeding evidence at Allt y Rhiw, Blackmill and Darren Woods; singing males at 10 other sites; GOWER: probably bred at Crynant Forest and by R.Dulais at Crynant; present at 14 other sites; CARMARTHEN: three in Upper Cwmhiraeth/Cwmpengraig area on 11 May; four in the Sawdde Valley, Llangadog, on 17 May; PEMBROKE: 1-2 at six sites, including six at Minwear; CEREDIGION: many in oak woods and in conifer woods such as Nant yr Arian and near Penbontrhydybeddau; 12 between Furnace and Tre'r Ddol; BRECON: *c*.30 at 12 locations; MEIRIONNYDD: seven records in probable breeding sites, but only confirmed at Bod Petryal; CAERNARFON: recorded at 16 sites but breeding confirmed only at Rowen; DENBIGH: seven possible breeding sites; FLINT: four possible breeding sites.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 19 April | Magor | | 29 June | Mynydd Llanwenarth |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 19 April | Fforest fawr | | 12 July | Pant-yr-Awel |
| **GOWER** | **10 April** | **Afan Argoed** | | 23 June | Penllergaer Valley Woods |
| CARMARTHEN | 3 May | Allt Blaeneigiau, Newchurch | | 7 June | Blaendudad Plantation |
| PEMBROKE | 25 April | Minwear | | 7 Aug. | Minwear |
| CEREDIGION | 14 April | Cwm Einion | | no autumn records | |
| BRECON | 13 April | The Cwm | | 16 July | Yr Allt, Sennybridge |
| RADNOR | 18 April | Elan Valley | | 18 Aug. | Elan Valley |
| MONTGOMERY | 20 April | Allt Goch, Llanidloes | | 1 Aug. | Llwynderw, near Llanidloes |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 22 April | Coed y Parc, Dolgellau | | 16 July | Bod Petryal |
| **CAERNARFON** | 18 April | near Tregarth | | **18 Sept.** | **Bardsey** |
| ANGLESEY | 29 April | Pentraeth Forest | | 17 June | Newborough Forest |
| DENBIGH | 25 April | Coed y Trap, Bont-newydd | | 28 July | Rhôs Fraith, N of Cerrigydrudion |
| FLINT | 1 May | Caer Estyn | | 14 June | Coed Maeshafn |

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**YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus* TELOR AELFELYN

*Uncommon passage migrant, mainly in autumn, from northeast Europe.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **78** | **104** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

A moderate year, with a max. 88 birds (annual average 54 during 2010-19). The first of the autumn were on Skokholm and Bardsey on 18 Sept., only one day later than the earliest ever record for the latter island in 1988. One at Breakwater CP, Anglesey, on 9 Dec. 2019 was not seen subsequently, and the latest record in 2020, at Ffrwd Fen, Carmarthenshire, from 26 Nov. to 1 Dec. also appears not to have overwintered.

Numbers of new birds occurring in each month.

| | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* |
|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | 2 | 1 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | | 9 | |
| GOWER | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| CARMARTHEN | | | 1 |
| PEMBROKE | 3 | 16 | |
| CEREDIGION | | 1 | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | 1 | |
| CAERNARFON | | 11 | 2 |
| Bardsey | 3 | 17 | |
| ANGLESEY | 2 | 7 | 1 |

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**PALLAS'S WARBLER** *Phylloscopus proregulus* TELOR PALLAS

*Very rare vagrant. WBRC: 48 previous records.*

CAERNARFON: one on the Great Orme on 25 Oct.

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**DUSKY WARBLER** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* TELOR TYWYLL

*Very rare vagrant. WBRC: six previous records.*

ANGLESEY: one at Wylfa Wood on 25 Oct.

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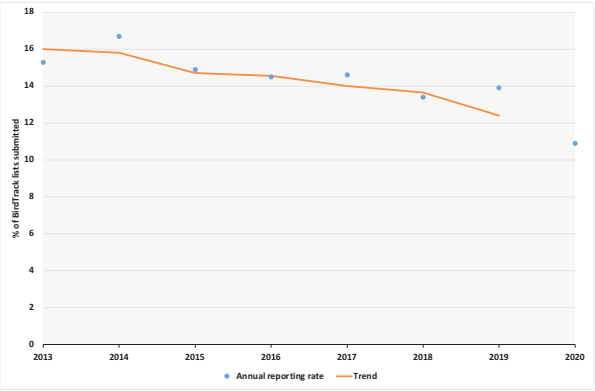
**WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus* TELOR HELYG

*Abundant summer visitor (265,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Numerous up to c.670m but becoming less common in lowland habitats in the south. Wales Red listed.*

| | **2019** | **2020** |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **3318** | **2387** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **14%** | **11%** |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales declined 16% during 1995-2019. The BirdTrack reporting rate declined by 23% during 2013-19, and farther again in 2020.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Willow Warbler in Wales 2013-20**




Selected breeding season records from southeast Wales: GWENT: in east of the county, largely confined to the Trellech plateau where at least 32 territories included 10 on Beacon Hill; E.GLAMORGAN: 16 pairs confirmed and probably bred at eight other locations.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GWENT (provisional)** | **16 March** | **Pontypool** | | 24 Sept. | Crumlin |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 25 March | Llanishen/Lisvane Reservoirs | | 31 Oct. | Flat Holm |
| GOWER | 17 March | Cwm Dyffryn | | 1 Oct. | Fendrod Lake |
| CARMARTHEN | 26 March | Old Castle Pond | | 23 Sept. | Llyn Llech Owain |
| **PEMBROKE** | 23 March | Teifi Marshes & St Davids Head | | **10 Nov.** | **Skokholm** |
| CEREDIGION | 25 March | Teifi Marshes | | 3 Oct. | Llangwyryfon |
| BRECON | 4 April | Penlas & Brecon Hospital | | 21 Aug. | Y Byddwn & Llangatwg |
| RADNOR | 4 April | Cwmbach | | 6 Oct. | Cors y Llyn |
| MONTGOMERY | 5 April | Ceinws | | 13 Sept. | Dyfi Junction |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 26 March | Rhiwbryfdir | | 16 Sept. | Rhiwbryfdir |
| CAERNARFON | 21 March | Mynydd Llandygai | | 22 Oct. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 25 March | Brynteg | | 20 Sept. | RSPB Cors Ddyga |
| DENBIGH | 22 March | Colwyn Bay | | 15 Sept. | RSPB Conwy |
| FLINT | 24 March | Rhydymwyn | | 20 Sept. | Gwernymynydd |

The records on Flat Holm on 31 Oct. and Skokholm on 10 Nov. were the latest their respective counties this century.

Counts of >=10: GWENT: 17 on Trellech heaths on 22 April; 17 on the Blorenge on 9 May; max. 28 at Aberbeeg on 21 April and 29 on 29 May; max. 14 at Mynydd Llangatwg on 6 May; max. 16 at Garn Lakes on 23 April; E.GLAMORGAN: 29 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 23 Aug.; GOWER: 10+ at Melincourt on 21 April; CARMARTHEN: 17 at Penclacwydd on 4 April; PEMBROKE: 20 at Teifi Marshes on 6 April; 54 on Skokholm on 13 April; 113 on Skokholm on 6 Aug.; 64 on Ramsey on 15 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: 16 in the Pennal area on 5 July; 15 singing males along road to Llangower forestry on 23 June; CAERNARFON: 17 at Trefriw on 19 April; spring passage on Bardsey peaked at 455 on 16 April and autumn passage at 203 on 24 July, 417 on 16 Aug. and 180 on 19th; DENBIGH: 11 at Llangollen on 12 April; max. 19 on Moel Fendig on 9 May; 12 at Llanarmon-yn-lal on 7 June; FLINT: 11 at Nercwys Mountain on 26 April; 12 at Waun y llyn on 2 May; max. 25 at Gwernymynydd on 15 June.

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**CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita* SIFF-SIAFF

*Abundant summer visitor (245,000 breeding territories) and on passage. Winters in small numbers. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **5855** | **5722** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **25%** | **27%** |

The BirdTrack reporting rate in 2020 was above that in the previous year, but has shown a wide range: min. 21.9% of lists in 2018 and max. 31.8% in 2015. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales is 54% above the 1994 baseline.

Spring passage: CAERNARFON: peak counts on Bardsey included 52 on 23 March, 84 on 24th, 106 on 25th and 88 on 26th; 20 at Ty'n y Parc near Rhiw on 4 April; 23 at Mynydd Rhiw on 6 April.

Autumn passage: GOWER: 16 ringed at Oxwich Marsh on 26 Sept.; CAERNARFON: peak on Bardsey of 50 on 9 Sept.; 11 on the Great Orme on 20 Sept.; 10+ between Morfa Aber and Llanfairfechan on 28 Sept.

Winter records. Some birds occurred over an extended period.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 5 | 1 | | 6 | 1 |
| GOWER | | | | 8 | 2 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 2+ | | | 37 | |
| CARMARTHEN | 6 | 5 | | 2 | 14 |
| PEMBROKE | 8 | 4 | | 11 | 10 |
| CEREDIGION | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| BRECON | 1 | | | 2 | 1 |
| MONTGOMERY | | | | | 1 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 1 | | | | |
| CAERNARFON | 1 | 1 | | 6 | 1 |
| ANGLESEY | 2 | 1 | | | |
| DENBIGH | 2 | | | | 1 |
| FLINT | 2 | 4 | | 1 | 3 |

***P.c. tristis* (Siberian Chiffchaff / Siff-siaff Siberia)**
*Uncommon autumn migrant and occasional winter visitor. 89 records since 1995.*
Single birds unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: Kenfig NNR from 5 Jan. to 15 March; two at Cardiff Bay on 22-24 March and one on 27th; CARMARTHEN: Kidwelly Quay WTW on 19 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 11 April; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 20 April, two here on 13 Oct. and one on 4 Nov.; Great Orme on 9 Nov.; ANGLESEY: two at Breakwater CP, Holyhead, on 16 Feb.; Braint est. on 1 Dec.

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**GREENISH WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* TELOR GWYRDD
*Rare migrant from eastern Europe. WBRC: 34 previous records.*

Singles. PEMBROKE: ringed on Skokholm on 23 June; CAERNARFON: singing male on Bardsey on 29 May, later ringed.

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**SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* TELOR HESG
*Fairly common passage migrant and summer visitor, numerous at some sites (19,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.*

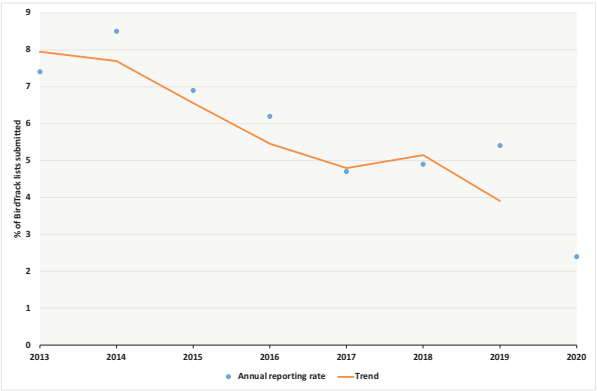
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **1225** | **592** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **5%** | **2%** |

The UK index for the Breeding Bird Survey has fallen 34% since its peak in 2000, but it occurs in too few BBS squares in Wales for a trend to be generated. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales fell during 2013-19, and even farther in 2020, when most rates for most wetland species were lower as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Spring passage: PEMBROKE: 10 at Marloes Mere on 10 May; 13 at Teifi Marshes on 1 May; nine on Skokholm on 9 April and 12 on 8 and 24 May; CAERNARFON: 14 on Bardsey on 24 April and regular double-figure counts (max. day count 27) in May.

Breeding: GWENT: territories at Newport Wetlands Reserve and R.Usk at Newport; probably bred at Magor NR and Caldicot Pill; E.GLAMORGAN: two probable breeding records and 12 possible; GOWER: bred at

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Sedge Warbler in Wales 2013-20**




five sites and present at five others; CARMARTHEN: 17 territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: breeding evidence from eight locations, including 42 territories on Skomer and one on Ramsey, the first for 25 years; BRECON: bred at Llangasty; MONTGOMERY: several pairs at Cors Dyfi; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Llyn Tegid, at Lower Tryweryn, Bala, and on the Maentwrog Levels, and probably at six sites; CAERNARFON: bred at Morfa Aber, Minafon, Aberdaron and near Llyn Cowlyd; ANGLESEY: bred at Cemlyn and probably at Malltraeth Cob and RSPB Valley Wetlands; DENBIGH: probably/possibly bred at 13 sites; FLINT: probably/possibly bred at nine sites.

Autumn passage: GOWER: 26 ringed at Oxwich Marsh on 12 Aug. and 10 here on 31 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 18 on Skomer on 30 Aug.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no dates from MONTGOMERY).

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 9 April | Magor | | 16 Sept. | Peterstone Sluice Farm |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | **6 April** | **Cardiff Bay & Tirfounder Fields** | | **23 Sept.** | **Kenfig Pool** |
| GOWER | 24 April | Stafford Common & Margam Moors | | 20 Sept. | Oxwich Marsh |
| **CARMARTHEN** | **6 April** | **Furnace Pond** | | 31 Aug. | Banc y Lord |
| PEMBROKE | 8 April | Nolton | | 18 Sept. | Teifi Marshes |
| CEREDIGION | 8 April | Teifi Marshes | | no autumn records | |
| BRECON | 3 May | Llangorse Common & Tŷ Mawr | | 10 Sept. | Llangasty |
| RADNOR | 14 April | Llowes | | 17 Sept. | Llowes |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 13 April | Aberdyfi | | 16 Aug. | Llyn Tegid |
| CAERNARFON | 9 April | Cors Geirch | | 1 Sept. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 9 April | RSPB Valley Wetlands | | 10 July | Cemlyn |
| DENBIGH | 14 April | RSPB Conwy | | 24 Aug. | RSPB Conwy |
| FLINT | 21 April | Gronant dunes | | 24 Aug. | Gronant dunes |

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**BLYTH'S REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* TELOR CYRS BLYTH

*Rare vagrant from eastern Europe. WBRC: nine previous records.*

At least 40 Blyth's Reed Warblers were recorded in Britain in May/June 2020, including three in Wales, a record for a single year. PEMBROKE: singing male on Ramsey on 29 May; CAERNARFON: singing males on Bardsey on 30-31 May and 8 June.

**REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* TELOR CYRS

*Locally fairly common and increasing summer visitor (11,000 breeding pairs). Uncommon passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **913** | **510** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **4%** | **2%** |

The UK index for the Breeding Bird Survey has been very stable since 2000, but it occurs in too few BBS squares in Wales for a trend to be generated. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has been fairly steady during 2013-19, but was much lower in 2020, in tandem with other wetland species, presumably as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Breeding: GWENT: probably bred in Peterstone area (15 here on 7 June), Newport Wetlands Reserve, Black Rock and Brynmawr Ponds; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Cardiff Bay Wetland, Cosmeston Lakes CP and Parc Taf, Bargoed; probably bred at three other sites and possibly at 16 others; GOWER: bred at four sites and possibly at Crymlyn Bog and Baglan Energy Park; present at three other locations; CARMARTHEN: 38 territories at Penclacwydd; up to four birds present at seven other sites; PEMBROKE: 1-4 at 13 sites; CEREDIGION: recorded at five sites; BRECON: min. 16 singing males around Llangorse Lake; MONTGOMERY: three pairs bred at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Mochras; CAERNARFON: present at three sites; ANGLESEY: bred at Llyn Maelog, probably at Cemlyn and Malltraeth Cob; DENBIGH: bred at Llandrillo-yn-rhos and Pensarn; FLINT: bred at Gronant and Point of Ayr.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no dates from MONTGOMERY).

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 18 April | Newport | | 11 Oct. | Newport Wetlands Reserve |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 6 April | Cardiff Bay | | 7 Sept. | Tirfounder Fields |
| **GOWER** | **5 April** | **Pant y Sais Fen** | | 20 Sept. | Oxwich Marsh |
| CARMARTHEN | 7 April | Pwll Lagoon | | 8 Aug. | Banc y Lord |
| **PEMBROKE** | 9 April | Teifi Marshes | | **21 Oct.** | **Skokholm** |
| CEREDIGION | 9 April | Teifi Marshes | | 5 Sept. | Teifi Marshes |
| BRECON | 27 April | Tŷ Mawr & Llangasty | | 21 Sept. | Llangasty |
| RADNOR | 21 April | Llanbwchllyn | | 11 Sept. | Llowes |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 13 April | Aberdyfi | | 6 Aug. | Mochras |
| CAERNARFON | 17 April | Bardsey | | 17 Sept. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 16 April | Inland Sea | | 3 Sept. | Cemlyn |
| DENBIGH | 24 April | RSPB Conwy | | 13 Sept. | RSPB Conwy |
| FLINT | 21 April | Rhyl Brickfield Pond | | 1 Sept. | Gronant |

The birds at Pant y Sais Fen on 5 April, at Teifi Marshes on 9 April and at Aberdyfi on 13 April were the earliest this century in their respective counties.

Ringing: GOWER: autumn passage evident at Oxwich Marsh, illustrated by 30 caught on 12 Aug., 18 on 31st and 20 on 20 Sept.

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**MARSH WARBLER** *Acrocephalus palustris* TELOR GWERNI

*Rare visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 28 previous records.*

CAERNARFON: one ringed on Bardsey on 15 Oct.

**MELODIOUS WARBLER** *Hippolais polyglotta* TELOR PER

*Scarce migrant from western Europe. WBRC: 222 previous records.*

Singles. PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 2 Sept. and another on 10-19 Sept.; Skomer on 6-15 Sept.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 30 July.

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**ICTERINE WARBLER** *Hippolais icterina* TELOR AUR

*Scarce migrant from northeast Europe. WBRC: 120 previous records.*

Singles. PEMBROKE: ringed on Skomer on 9 May; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 15 Aug.; ANGLESEY: Newborough on 18 Aug.

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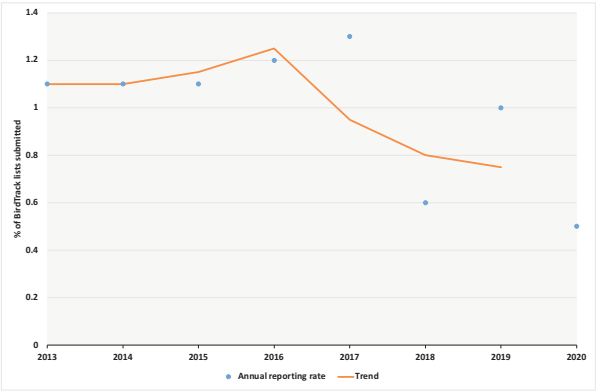
**GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia* TROELLWR BACH

*Uncommon summer visitor (2000 breeding territories), widespread but thinly distributed in all counties, and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 289 | 165 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 1% | 1% |

The UK index for the Breeding Bird Survey fluctuates, consistent with a species that shows little natal site fidelity, and was at a similar level in 2019 to 1994. However, Grasshopper Warbler occurs in too few BBS squares in Wales for a BBS trend to be generated. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales was lower in the last three years than in 2013-17, although in 2020 will have been affected by fewer visits to its favoured wetland and moorland habitats as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Grasshopper Warbler in Wales 2013-20**




Breeding/reeling males: GWENT: three sites; probably bred at Parc Nant-y-Waun; E.GLAMORGAN: seven sites; GOWER: bred at Pant y Sais Fen; probably at Glynneath; reeling at 14 other sites; CARMARTHEN: 13 sites, and breeding confirmed at Cynnant; PEMBROKE: 20 sites; BRECON: six sites; MEIRIONNYDD: several at Ynys Saltings; one near R.Clywedog, Dinas Mawddwy; one at east end of Llyn Trawsfynydd; CAERNARFON: 27 birds at 23 sites; DENBIGH: six sites; FLINT: Gronant, Burton Marsh and Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no dates from MONTGOMERY).

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 25 April | Garn Lakes | | 30 June | Brynmawr |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | 7 April | Pant Norton | | **25 Sept.** | **Kenfig NNR** |
| GOWER | 12 April | Gorseinon/Gravesend & Pontlliw | | 20 Sept. | Oxwich Marsh |
| CARMARTHEN | 7 April | Pwll | | 6 Sept. | Penclacwydd |
| PEMBROKE | 14 April | Nolton Haven | | 19 Sept. | Skokholm |
| **CEREDIGION** | **6 April** | **Pen Dinas** | | 16 Aug. | RSPB Ynys-hir |
| BRECON | 22 June | near Blaenllia | | 27 Aug. | Llangasty |
| RADNOR | 15 April | Nant Glas | | 30 Aug. | Llyn Heilyn |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 16 April | Cwm Sian Llwyd, Palé | | 27 June | Ynys Saltings |
| **CAERNARFON** | **6 April** | **Bardsey** | | 15 Aug. | Bardsey |
| **ANGLESEY** | **6 April** | **Cemaes** | | 7 Aug. | RSPB Cors Ddyga |
| DENBIGH | 14 April | Churton | | 21 Sept. | Pentrefelin, near Glan Conwy |
| FLINT | 30 April | Gronant dunes | | 16 July | Gronant |

The bird at Pwll on 7 April was the earliest in CARMARTHEN this century and that at Cemaes on 6 April equalled the earliest occurrence on ANGLESEY, in 2019.

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**BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla* TELOR PENDDU

*Abundant summer visitor (265,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Uncommon but widespread winter visitor (min. 2000 individuals). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **4027** | **3975** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **17%** | **19%** |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019 was 214% above its 1994 level. The BirdTrack reporting rate was higher in 2020 than 2019, but well within its range for recent years.

Winter records.

| | *Jan* | *Feb* | | *Nov* | *Dec* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 6 | 3 | | 1 | 1 |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 100+ | | | 25 | |
| GOWER | 7 | | | 5+ | 4 |
| CARMARTHEN | 4 | 1 | | 5 | 9 |
| PEMBROKE | 1 | | | 12 | 4 |
| CEREDIGION | 1 | | | | 4 |
| BRECON | 7 | 6 | | 4 | 4 |
| RADNOR | 1 | | | | |
| MONTGOMERY | 2 | | | 1 | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | | | 1 | |
| CAERNARFON | 7 | 7 | | | 9 |
| ANGLESEY | | | | 1 | 17 |
| DENBIGH | 8 | 7 | | 21 | 21 |
| FLINT | 2 | 3 | | 12 | 9 |

Peak day counts on spring passage: PEMBROKE: 32 on Skokholm on 13 April; CAERNARFON: 16 on 25 March and many counts over 50 in April, max. 209 on 16th.

Autumn: E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Pant Norton on 27 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 34 on Skokholm on 14 Sept.; CAERNARFON: six on the Great Orme on 19 Sept. and seven on 20th; on Bardsey, passage peaked at 12 on 4 and 9 Oct.

**GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin* TELOR YR ARDD

*Fairly common, widespread summer visitor (39,500 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **540** | **455** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **2%** | **2%** |

The Breeding Bird Survey index in 2019 was 16% lower than in 1994, but relatively stable in the previous decade. The BirdTrack reporting rate was very similar to the previous three years.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 15 April | Penallt | | 16 Sept. | Newport Wetlands Reserve |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 16 April | Nantgarw | | 21 Sept. | Pant-yr-Awel |
| GOWER | 21 April | Penllergaer Woods & Pontlliw | | 15 Sept. | near Welshmoor |
| CARMARTHEN | 9 April | Penclacwydd | | 16 Aug. | Kidwelly Quay |
| **PEMBROKE** | **5 April** | **Nolton Haven** | | **18 Oct.** | **Teifi Marshes & Skokholm** |
| **CEREDIGION** | 7 April | Teifi Marshes | | **18 Oct.** | **Teifi Marshes** |
| BRECON | 16 April | Llanddew | | 16 July | Yr Allt, Sennybridge |
| RADNOR | 21 April | Presteigne | | 15 Oct. | Bronydd |
| MONTGOMERY | 10 April | Carno | | no autumn records | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 26 April | Cwm Cywarch | | 25 June | Pont Croesor |
| CAERNARFON | 19 April | Moel y ci farm, Tregarth | | 10 Sept. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 15 April | Amlwch Port | | no autumn records | |
| DENBIGH | 12 April | Dolwyd | | 30 Aug. | Pentrefelin, Glan Conwy |
| FLINT | 8 April | Sychdyn | | 27 Sept. | Lower Kinnerton |

The bird at Nolton Haven on 5 April was the earliest PEMBROKE record this century, by nine days, and the one at Sychdyn on 8 April was the earliest in FLINT this century by six days. The Teifi Marshes bird on 7 April was the earliest in CEREDIGION this century, and the Llanddew individual matched the first in 2011 as the earliest in BRECON.

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**BARRED WARBLER** *Curruca nisoria* TELOR RHESOG

*Scarce migrant from eastern Europe. WBRC: 111 previous records.*

MEIRIONNYDD: one at Tonfanau on 15-16 Oct.

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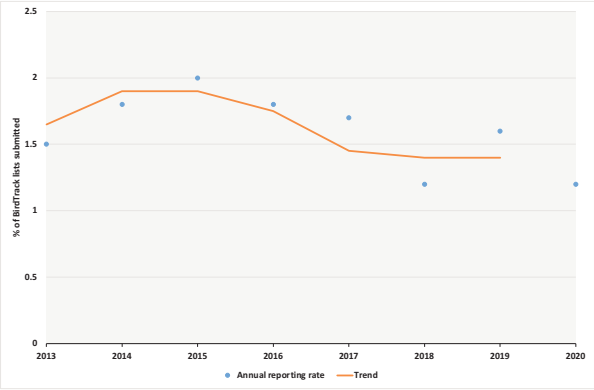
**LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Curruca curruca* LLWYDFRON FACH

*Fairly common, but patchily distributed, summer visitor (6950 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **439** | **338** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **2%** | **1%** |

The breeding trend for Lesser Whitethroat in Wales remains uncertain because of low sample size in the Breeding Bird Survey, but the UK index has, during the last 20 years, recovered from a substantial decrease in the late 1990s. The BirdTrack reporting rate in 2020 was lower than 2019, not surprising for a localised and rural species that tends to be found away from residential areas.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Lesser Whitethroat in Wales 2013-20**




Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 20 April | Llanwenarth | | 5 Sept. | Peterstone |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | 17 April | Lavernock LNR | | **5 Nov.** | **Kenfig NNR** |
| **GOWER** | **14 April** | **Salthouse Point** | | 27 Sept. | Mewslade |
| **CARMARTHEN** | **14 April** | **Penclacwydd** | | 6 Sept. | Penclacwydd |
| PEMBROKE | 16 April | Moylegrove | | 13 Oct. | Dale |
| CEREDIGION | 20 April | Teifi Marshes | | 17 Aug. | Teifi Marshes |
| BRECON | 26 April | Bronllys | | 7 June | Bronllys |
| RADNOR | 21 April | Boughrood | | 30 Aug. | Rhosgoch |
| MONTGOMERY | 3 May | Middletown | | no autumn records | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 12 June | near Penrhyndeudraeth | | 28 Sept. | Broadwater |
| CAERNARFON | 8 May | Foryd & Little Orme | | 14 Oct.* | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 17 April | Tregele | | 6 Sept. | Carmel Head |
| DENBIGH | 20 April | Nant Lafar, Glyn Ceiriog | | 9 Aug. | Pentrefelin, near Glan Conwy |
| FLINT | 16 April | Flint | | 16 Sept. | Rhyl Brickfield Pond |

* Singles on Bardsey on 3 and 14 Oct. were believed to be of the subspecies *S.c.blythii* (Siberian Lesser Whitethroat) but neither was submitted to the WBRC as the current policy is only to accept birds proven with DNA evidence.

The bird at Penclacwydd on 14 April matches a 2010 record as the earliest in CARMARTHEN this century. The one at Kenfig on 5 Nov. was the latest in E.GLAMORGAN this century by 29 days (in 2016) and that at Broadwater on 28 Sept. was the latest this century in MEIRIONNYDD by 16 days (in 2008).

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**WESTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Curruca iberiae* TELOR BRONGOCH Y GORLLEWIN

*Very rare migrant from western Mediterranean. BBRC: four previous records.*

PEMBROKE: female ringed on Skokholm on 8 May

**EASTERN SUBALPINE WARBLER** *Curruca cantillans* TELOR BRONGOCH DWYRAIN

*Rare migrant from southeast Europe. BBRC: 18 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: male on Skokholm on 9 May.

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**SUBALPINE WARBLER SP.** RHYWOGAETH TELOR BRONGOCH

PEMBROKE: males on Ramsey on 16 April and at Martin's Haven on 23 April, but as there were no photographs of the outer tail feathers and no DNA was collected, neither was assigned to species. The plumage and timing would indicate that both were most likely Eastern Subalpine Warblers.

2016 PEMBROKE: female on Skokholm on 13 May.

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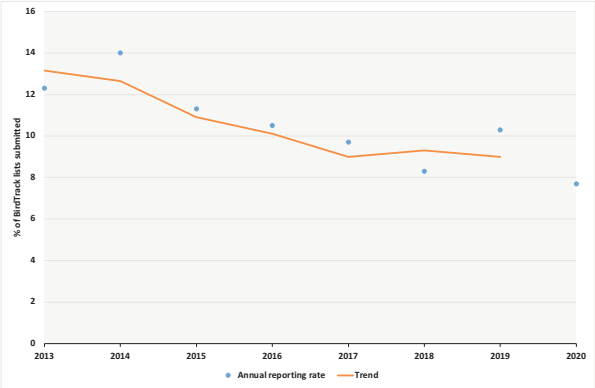
**WHITETHROAT** *Curruca communis* LLWYDFRON

*Fairly common and widespread summer visitor (79,500 territories) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed*.

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2398 | 1753 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 10% | 8% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index in Wales in 2019 was 28% below its 1994 level, and 21% below its 2013 level. The BirdTrack reporting rate has shown a decline of 29% during 2013-19, so the lower value in 2020 may be accurate, but is also likely to biased by restrictions on travel to habitats in which it is more abundant.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Whitethroat in Wales 2013-20**




Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 19 April | Osbaston & Brynmawr | | 20 Sept. | Newport Wetlands Reserve |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 11 April | three locations | | 21 Sept. | Pant-yr-Awel |
| GOWER | 10 April | Llys Nini | | 30 Aug. | Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir |
| CARMARTHEN | 10 April | Pwll | | 16 Sept. | Kidwelly Quay |
| **PEMBROKE** | **28 March** | **Pelcomb** | | 23 Sept. | Skokholm |
| CEREDIGION | 11 April | Foel Fawr | | 24 Aug. | Penbryn |
| BRECON | 10 April | Llanddew | | 9 Aug. | Dderw fields |
| RADNOR | 18 April | Llanelwedd | | 15 Sept. | Michaelchurch |
| MONTGOMERY | 23 April | Middletown Hill | | no autumn records | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 13 April | Aberdyfi | | 20 Sept. | Llandanwg |
| CAERNARFON | 13 April | Tai'n Lon | | 21 Sept. | Llanfairfechan |
| **ANGLESEY** | 9 April | Holyhead | | **8 Oct.** | **Breakwater CP, Holyhead** |
| DENBIGH | 14 April | Kinmel Bay | | 18 Aug. | Lleweni Hall |
| FLINT | 10 April | Bagillt | | 20 Sept. | Connah's Quay NR |

The bird at Pelcomb on 28 March was the earliest in PEMBROKE this century by nine days. The one at Foel Fawr matches the earliest CEREDIGION records this century (in 2011, 2012 and 2017).

Notable counts during spring passage: PEMBROKE: 10 on Skokholm on 26 April; MEIRIONNYDD: nine east of Harlech on 11 May and ten here on 16th; CAERNARFON: 13 on Bardsey on 2 May.

Autumn passage: PEMBROKE: 12 on Skokholm on 13 Aug.

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**DARTFORD WARBLER** *Curruca undata* TELOR DARTFORD

*Rare breeder, mainly in south and west Wales - RBBP: 8-11 pairs in 2019. Occasional elsewhere, usually in autumn. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 6 | 21 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

This species has still not recovered from cold, snowy conditions in March 2018 that reduced the number of breeding pairs. Although there were no records from CAERNARFON, birds are reported still to be present at a site on Llŷn.

All records: GOWER: two pairs bred on south Gower coast and 1-2 pairs inland; three pairs at other Gower coastal sites in breeding season and reported from two other coastal sites outside the breeding season; E.GLAMORGAN: one near Southerndown on 9 March; PEMBROKE: bred at Anglas; records from Carn Fran on 18 April and St Davids Head on 22 Nov.

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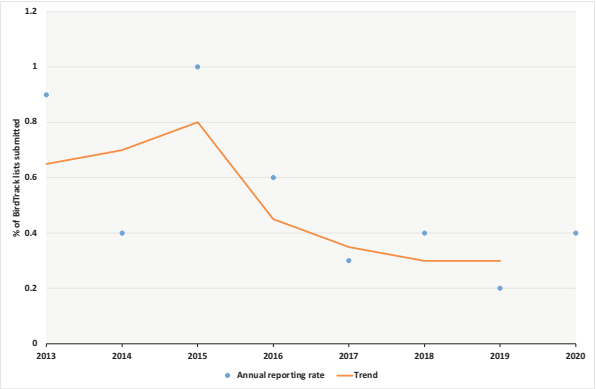
**FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla* DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

*Scarce breeding resident and uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 184 | 212 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate is low, and comprises non-breeding birds almost completely, so was probably less affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions than that for many other species.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Firecrest in Wales 2013-20**




Breeding season: 17 possible/probable records. GWENT: singing male at Mescoed Mawr on 16 April; up to 12 singing males in Wentwood on 24/25 April; two at Llanishen on 12 June; MEIRIONNYDD: singing male in Coed y Brenin on 2 June; ANGLESEY: male singing at Llandegfan on 1 June; DENBIGH: two in suitable habitat south of Llyn Brenig on 28 July.

Summary of other records for each county.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | | | | 3 | | 1 | | | | |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 2 | 4 | | | | | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| GOWER | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 2 | 3 | |
| CARMARTHEN | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| PEMBROKE | 9 | 9 | 8 | | | | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| CEREDIGION | | | | | | | | 1-2 | 1 | |
| RADNOR | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| MONTGOMERY | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| CAERNARFON | 3 | 4 | 1 | | | | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Bardsey | | | 5 | | | | 1 | 3 | | |
| ANGLESEY | 6 | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| DENBIGH | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | |

**GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus* DRYW EURBEN

*Fairly common resident (85,500 territories), abundant passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **2585** | **2824** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **11%** | **13%** |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019 was 54% below its 1994 level, and 38% below its most recent peak in 2015. The BirdTrack reporting rate, which includes non-breeding birds, also peaked in 2015 (at 21.5% of lists) and was 38% lower in 2019. On that basis, it appears that 2020 was a slightly better year.

Counts of 20+: CAERNARFON: 195 on Bardsey on 26 March; 29 on 10 and 21 Sept. and 37 on 14 Oct.

**Goldcrest (Bob Garrett)**

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes* DRYW

*Abundant resident up to c.900 metres, and most ubiquitous bird species in Wales (1.3 million territories). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 10684 | 9826 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 48% | 49% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate increased slightly in 2020, but remains well below the 57.4% of lists on which it was recorded in 2016.

Notable counts: GWENT: 20 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 1 Jan.; 11 near Osbaston on 3 April; 12 at King's Wood, Monmouth, on 17 April and 19 May; 16-25 at Aberbeeg on four dates between 20 April and 26 May; 18 at Penallt on 23 April; max. 15 on Trellech Heaths on 4 May; 11 on Mynydd Llangatwg on two dates in early May; 18 at Llanelli church on 14 June; 29 at Upper Llanover on 17 June ; E.GLAMORGAN: 14 counts of 10-15 birds; PEMBROKE: 63 on Skokholm on 19 April and 56 here on 18 Oct.; 63 territories on Skomer and 50 on Ramsey; MEIRIONNYDD: 11 at Cynwyd on 3 AprIl; 13 at Cwm Cywarch on 10 April; 13 at Pennal on 23 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 142 territories on Bardsey, where peak spring counts were 71 on 16 April and 14 May; DENBIGH: max. 27 at Holt on 30 April; max. 48 at Moel Findeg on 9 May; 20 at Pulford Brook on 8 May; FLINT: 20 at St Asaph on 13 March; max. 34 at Gwernymynydd on 22 June; 14 at Nercwys Mountain on 20 May.

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**NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea* DELOR CNAU

*Fairly common and widely distributed resident of mature deciduous and mixed woodland (60,000 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3400 | 3737 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 15% | 18% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate in 2020, 17.6%, is far higher than any previous year. The average was 13% of lists during 2013-19. This trend is opposite to that of the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, which fell 9% during 2013-19, but remains 30% above its 1994 baseline.

Breeding productivity: CARMARTHEN: five pairs in boxes at Halfway reared 26 young (5.2 young/pair).

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**TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris* DRINGWR BACH

*Fairly common and widespread resident (37,500 breeding territories). Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1138 | 1171 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 5% | 5% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate has been quite stable over recent years. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales increased by 22% during 1994-2019.

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**ROSE-COLOURED STARLING** *Pastor roseus* DRUDWEN WRIDOG

*Scarce migrant from southeast Europe, prone to irruptions in some years. WBRC: 132 previous records.*

18 in a year beats the previous record annual total of 16 in 2018, and arrived as part of a huge influx into western Europe, which resulted in the first breeding records in France.

All single birds, adults unless stated. CARMARTHEN: St Clears on 2 June; Ginst Pt on 29 June; Burry Port Harbour on 15 July; PEMBROKE: Marloes Mere on 31 May; female on Skokholm on 21 June; Milford Haven on 29 July; 1CY on Skomer on 13 Aug.; CEREDIGION: Gwbert on 25 June; BRECON: Pen-isa'r-waen, Felinfach, from 29 June to 1 July; MEIRIONNYDD: garden at Trawsfynydd, from 30 July to 3 Aug., possibly

same at Llyn Cwmystradllyn on 20-21 July; Llanbedr Airfield on 30 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 13 June; Rhos-on-sea on 22-24 June; 1CY at Nefyn on 30 Sept.; ANGLESEY: 1CY at Llanfaethlu from Oct. 2019 to 27 Feb.; Trearddur Bay on 3 June; Cemaes Bay on 17-24 June; 1CY at Cemaes Bay from 29 July to 1 Aug.; Bull Bay from 6 Sept. to 1 Oct., presumed same at Amlwch Port from 14 Nov. to year end.

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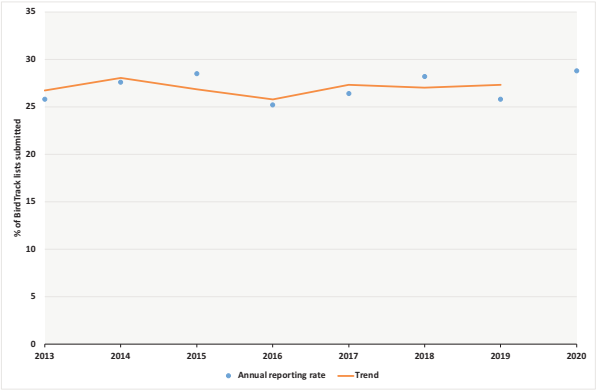
**STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris* DRUDWEN

*Fairly common resident (90,000 breeding pairs). Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor from eastern Europe. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 5951 | 6024 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 26% | 29% |

The 65% decline in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales (1994-2019) is among the highest of any species. The BirdTrack reporting rate, which includes the much larger non-breeding population, has remained far more consistent, at least in recent years, between 25% and 29%.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Starling in Wales 2013-20**




Large winter flocks/roosts (1000+) in first winter period: GWENT: 2000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 2 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1000 over Bridgend in Feb.; CARMARTHEN: *c*.2000 at Ffrwd Fen on 24 Jan.; *c*.1000 at Ffos-las on 31 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 3000 at Minwear on 3 Jan.; CEREDIGION: *c*.20,000 at Aberystwyth pier on 13 Feb.; MONTGOMERY: 5000+ at Dolydd Hafren in late Jan.; DENBIGH: 3000 at Rhydlydan on 26 Jan.; FLINT: 1684 by Clwyd est. in late Jan. and 2000 farther upriver at Rhuddlan on 3 Feb.; 1800 at Rhyl on 25 Feb.

In the second winter period: GWENT: 10,000 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 9 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 1500 at Lavernock Pt on 14 Oct. and 2000 here on 7 Nov.; 2500 at St Bride's Major on 5 Nov.; 15,000 at Hensol Lake on 15 Nov.; 2000 at Collwyn Woods, Pyle, on 1 Dec.; GOWER: 2750 up the Burry Inlet in one hour on 31 Oct., 3500 here on 3 Nov. and 3000+ on 5 Dec.; 15,000 over Eglwys Nunydd Res. in late Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 1200 at Penclacwydd in Sept.; PEMBROKE: 2000 at Little Haven on 13 Nov.; 2000 at Marloes Mere on 18 Nov.; 3000 at Clarbeston Road on 20 Nov.; 5600 at Pwllcaerog on 26 Nov.; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: 1000 at Teifi Marshes on 20 Oct.; BRECON: 30,000 at Llangasty on 15 Oct. and 10,000 here in mid-Nov.; 7500 roosted in Halfway Forest at Allt Troedrhiw on 5 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: *c*.10,000 at Dolydd Hafren from 30 Nov. to end of year; MEIRIONNYDD: 2040 at Melin y Wig on 20 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 1471 passed Bangor on 14 Oct., 2260 on 15th, 609 on 28th and 11,516 on 7 Nov.; 1000 at Mynydd Rhiw on 6 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 3000 at Cemlyn on 18 Oct.; 350,000 northeast of Parys Mountain on 30 Oct.; 300,000 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 2 Dec.; DENBIGH: 3000 at Bettisfield on 2 Dec.; FLINT: 1544 by Clwyd est. on 1 Nov.; 3010 at Gronant Dunes on 22 Nov.

**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos* BRONFRAITH

*Fairly common and widespread resident (160,000 breeding territories), winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 5388 | 5833 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 24% | 29% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate during 2013-19 tracked closely the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, and the increase in 2020 was within its recent range but may have been influenced by a greater proportion of lists being submitted from residential areas. The BBS index in 2019 was 18% above its 1994 baseline.

Counts of 30+: PEMBROKE: 31 on Skokholm on 29 Nov.

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**MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus* BRYCH COED

*Fairly common resident (26,000 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2790 | 3229 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 12% | 15% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate was its highest yet, a trend in line with the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales during 2013-19.

Large flocks (20+): GWENT: 39 in several flocks north over Blackwood Park on 3 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 31 on Mynydd Eglwysilan on 2 July; 37 in Llanfabon, Nelson, on 14 July; 48 at Maerdy wind farm on 22 July; 28 in Cwm Cadlan on 16 Aug.; 100 in Cefn Rhos-gwawr, Aberdare, on 17 Aug.; GOWER: 22+ at Troed-y-Rhiw on 16 Feb.; 30+ at Margam Park on 14 Oct.; CARMARTHEN: 24 in Pembrey CP on 24 July; PEMBROKE: 30 in the Clarbeston Road area on 27 July; 32 near Wiston on 6 Aug.; CEREDIGION: 30 at Plwmp on 26 July; 50 at Ysbyty Ystwyth on 18 Aug.; BRECON: 27 at Llanhamlach on 16 July; 40 at Wernfawr, Mynydd Illtyd, on 16 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 50 over Felinhen, Tregarth, on 29 July; 50+ at Hafod Ruffydd near Beddgelert on 6 Aug.; 25 at Caerhun on 7 Sept.; 22 passed Bangor on 14 Oct. and 23 here on 18th; ANGLESEY: 30 at Talwrn on 4 Sept.

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**REDWING** *Turdus iliacus* COCH DAN ADAIN

*Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe; particularly numerous in severe winters. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1790 | 1868 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 7% | 8% |

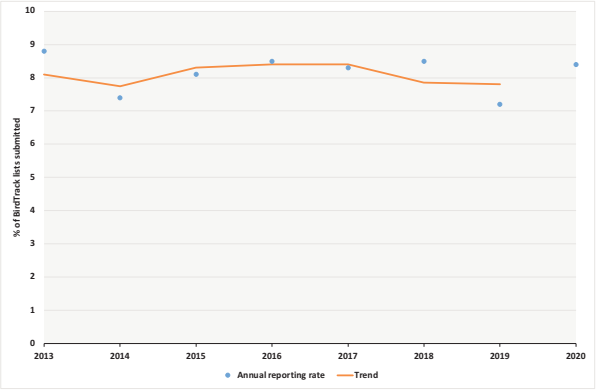
The BirdTrack reporting rate is twice that of Fieldfare, perhaps because some wintering birds remain in Wales

Latest and earliest dates in each county.

| | Latest | Site | | Earliest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GWENT (provisional)** | 9 April | Aberbeeg | | **20 Sept.** | **Grwyne Fawr** |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | **20 May** | **Trecynon** | | 28 Sept. | Kenfig NNR |
| GOWER | 28 March | Morfa Glas, Glynneath | | 8 Oct. | Glynneath |
| CARMARTHEN | 2 April | Llangennech | | 11 Oct. | Pentrefelin, Myddyfi valley |
| PEMBROKE | 18 April | Sprinkle Pill | | 28 Sept. | Skokholm |
| CEREDIGION | 4 April | Henllan | | 4 Oct. | Cors Caron |
| RADNOR | no late winter records | | | 14 Oct. | Llysdinam |
| BRECON | 5 April | Llangasty | | 1 Oct. | Buckland Hill |
| MONTGOMERY | 5 April | Moel-y-Garth, Welshpool | | 28 Sept. | Llwynderw, near Llanidloes |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 15 March | Yr Ynys, Pennal | | 12 Oct. | Llanelltyd |
| CAERNARFON | 10 April | Bardsey | | 28 Sept. | Bardsey & Bangor |
| ANGLESEY | 2 April | Brynteg | | 14 Oct. | Tregele to Henborth |
| DENBIGH | 31 March | Rhewl | | 29 Sept. | Fenn's Moss |
| FLINT | 6 April | Queensferry | | 30 Sept. | Bagillt |

throughout the season, whereas Fieldfares tend to move on quickly. It has, however, been similarly consistent in recent years.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Redwing in Wales 2013-20**




Large counts (120+) in the first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 169 at Tirfounder Fields on 14 Jan.; 200 at Ewenny Fields on 3 Feb.; GOWER: 121 at Gnoll Park Woods on 2 Jan.; BRECON: 200 at Bronwen, near Llysdinam, on 19 Jan.; DENBIGH: 212 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 7 Jan., 182 here on 20th and 228 on 5 Feb.; 200 at Llanrwst on 8 Jan.; 130 at Pendre on 10 Feb.; FLINT: 300 west of Connah's Quay on 29 Jan.

120+ in the second winter period: GWENT: 150 near Brynmawr on 15 Oct.; 170 on Mynydd Llangatwg on 5 Nov.; 168 in Blackwood Park on 7 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 120 over Penarth on 12 Oct.; 510 at Lavernock Pt and 148 at Cwm Cadlan on 18 Oct.; 140 at Llwyn-onn on 22 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 250 north over Furnace on 12 Oct.; BRECON: 200 at Y Byddwn on 19 Oct.; 200 over Llysdinam on 5 Nov.; '1000s' east over Cradoc during 6-8 Nov.; MONTGOMERY: *c*.500 at Montgomery on 12 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 843 passed Bangor Mountain on 14 Oct., 2615 on 15th, 569 on 17th, 300 on 18th, 322 on 19th and 186 on 7 Nov.; max. 585 passed Bardsey on 14 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 200 between Tregele and Hen Borth on 14 Oct.; 300 at Penmon on 6 Dec.; FLINT: 220 at Bagillt on 12 Oct.; 552 at Queensferry on 16 Oct.; 4000 over Gwernymynydd on 17 Oct.

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**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula* MWYALCHEN

*Abundant breeding resident (665,000 pairs), passage migrant and winter visitor from northeast Europe. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 14102 | 13946 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 62% | 68% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate was within the range of recent years, having been lower than usual in 2019. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has been stable for a decade, 43% above its 1994 level in 2019.

Large counts (30+): E.GLAMORGAN: 38 at Kenfig NNR on 6 Feb.; 37 at Pontypridd on 14 July; 31 in Dare Valley CP on 25 Oct.; GOWER: 50+ at Mewslade on 8 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 36 territories at Penclacwydd; PEMBROKE: 34 at Skrinkle Haven on 3 May; 41 on Skokholm on 7 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: 40 in the Harlech area on 6 May, 45 on 11th and 31 on 16th; CAERNARFON: Bardsey max. 157 on 14 Oct. and 89 on 15th; ANGLESEY: 50 at Penmon on 6 Dec.; 40+ regular around Amlwch Port in autumn/winter; DENBIGH: 33-38 at Aberduna NR on three dates in May; 32 at Kinmel Bay on 8 Nov.; FLINT: 33 on fields by Clwyd est. on 19 Jan. and 40+ here on 29 Dec.; 32 in a garden at Gwernaffield on 7 June; 32 at St Asaph on 5 Dec.; 31 at Devil's Gorge, Panytymwyn, on 6 Dec.; 64 at Connah's Quay NR on 11 Dec.

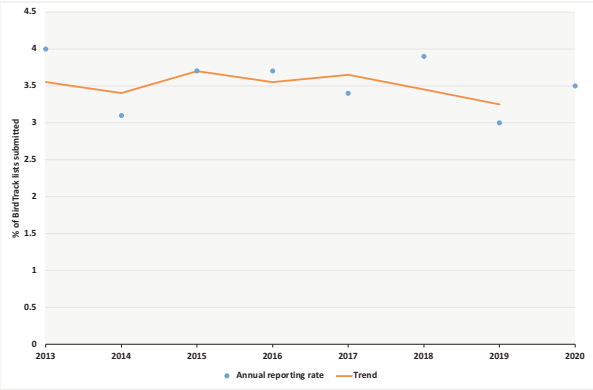
**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris* SOCAN EIRA

*Winter visitor and passage migrant from northeast Europe in variable numbers; often abundant. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **784** | **827** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **3%** | **4%** |

The BirdTrack reporting rate has been fairly consistent over recent years, although of course this says nothing about the numbers of birds involved.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Fieldfare in Wales 2013-20**




Latest and earliest dates in each county.

| | Latest | Site | | Earliest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 6 April | Gwern Ddu | | 28 Sept. | Slade Woods |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | **29 April** | **Lavernock Point (injured)** | | 28 Sept. | Nantgarw |
| GOWER | 29 March | Glynneath | | 13 Oct. | Glynneath |
| CARMARTHEN | 22 April | Newchurch | | 13 Oct. | Pâl y Cwrt |
| PEMBROKE | 3 April | Teifi Marshes | | 12 Oct. | Skokholm |
| CEREDIGION | 3 April | Location not provided | | 15 Oct. | Llyn Fanod |
| BRECON | 12 April | Berthllwyd, Beulah | | 29 Sept. | Blaen Dyffryn quarries |
| RADNOR | no late winter records | | | 14 Oct. | Llysdinam |
| MONTGOMERY | 10 April | Llanymynech | | 15 Oct. | Llyn Clwedog |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 1 April | Cwm Cywarch | | 14 Oct. | Talysarnau |
| CAERNARFON | 16 March | Llanberis & Betws Garmon | | 11 Oct. | Fachwen |
| ANGLESEY | 7 April | Cemaes | | 16 Oct. | RSPB South Stack |
| **DENBIGH** | 22 April | Penycae | | **10 Sept.** | **Pentrefelin, Glan Conwy** |
| FLINT | 5 April | Caerwys | | 12 Oct. | Caerwys |

Counts >=120 in the first winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 250 at Cwm Cadlan and Rhaslas Pond at end Jan.; 125 at Perthcelyn on 27 Feb.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*250 at Banc Wernwgan on 4 Feb.; 235 at Dryslwyn on 6 Feb.; BRECON: 120 at Pennorth on 8 Jan.; 170 at Glyn Colwyn on 26 Feb.; 300 at Y Byddwn on 31 March; MONTGOMERY: 260 at Carno on 5 April; DENBIGH: 200+ in Clocaenog Forest on 29 Jan.; 300 in Ceiriog Forest and 500 on Berwyn Mountain on 3 Feb.; 150 at Bettisfield on 18 Feb.; 250 at Holt on 22 March.

>=120 in the second winter period: GWENT: 150 east of Cwmbran on 3 Nov.; 206 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 12 Nov., 200+ here on 14th and 150+ on 19th; E.GLAMORGAN: 510 at Lavernock Pt

and 148 at Cwm Cadlan on 18 Oct.; 140 at Llwyn-onn on 22 Nov.; 120 in Ogmore on 23 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: *c.*200 at Pâl y Cwrt on 13 Oct.; *c.*300 at Rhiw Wen on 21 Oct.; BRECON: 600 at The Cwm on 17 Oct. and 400 here on 18th; CAERNARFON: 175 on Mynydd Rhiw on 17 Oct. and 127 on 7 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 150 at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 10 Dec.; DENBIGH: 200 at Pendre on 1 Dec.; FLINT: 2000 at Gwernymynydd on 17 Oct.; 419 in fields next to Clwyd est. on 28 Nov.

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**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus* MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

*Uncommon and declining summer visitor to the uplands (444-457 breeding pairs) and passage migrant on coast. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **165** | **99** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

Breeding: MEIRIONNYDD: up to three birds at Arenig Fawr from 21 April to 17 June; pair around Twllydarren on 16-26 April; CAERNARFON: confirmed at Cwm Eigiau and in Nant Ffrancon; probably bred at Ffrydlas, Bethesda, Nant Peris and Craig Cwm Dulyn, possibly on Tal-y-fan, near Aber Falls and on Garnedd Goch.

Passage (10+ birds): RADNOR: 11 in Elan Valley on 18 Oct. and 16 here on 22nd.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (none in CARMARTHEN).

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | no spring records | | | 15 Oct. | Brynmawr |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | **3 March** | **Tarren yr Bwlfa** | | 22 Oct. | Torcerrig |
| GOWER | 21 April | Glynneath | | 13 Oct. | Aberpergwm |
| **PEMBROKE** | 27 March | Martin's Haven & Skomer | | **19 Nov.** | **Fishguard** |
| CEREDIGION | no spring records | | | 23 Oct. | New Quay |
| BRECON | no spring records | | | 19 Oct. | Graig Fan Las, Beacons |
| **RADNOR** | 20 March | Radnor Forest | | **19 Nov.** | **Elan Valley** |
| MONTGOMERY | 21 March | Corndon Hill | | no autumn records | |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 10 April | Bwlch y Cwm | | 15 Sept. | Craig Nyth Gigfran |
| CAERNARFON | 23 March | Great Orme | | 22 Oct. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 25 March | Amlwch Port | | 2 Nov. | Mynydd Bodafon |
| DENBIGH | 10 April | Maesyrchain mountain | | no autumn records | |
| FLINT | 2 April | Queensferry | | no autumn records | |

The bird in RADNOR Forest on 20 March was the earliest in the county this century by two days (in 2010 and 2016).

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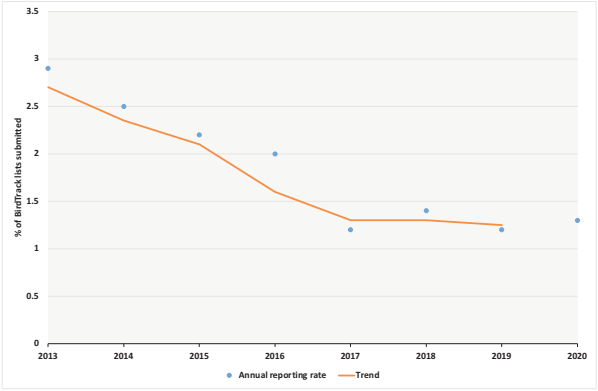
**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata* GWYBEDOG MANNOG

*Uncommon and declining summer visitor (5700 breeding territories). Locally common passage migrant. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **382** | **359** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **1%** |

The UK Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen by 60% since 1994, but it occurs on too few survey squares in Wales to produce a trend here. The BirdTrack reporting rate has been low over recent years although does seem to have levelled out since 2017. Is this genuine, or are birders making a special visit to see local Spotted Flycatchers and so inflating the reporting rate?

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Spotted Flycatcher in Wales 2013-20**




Breeding: GWENT: pair near The Hendre reared two broods; pairs also bred successfully at Gwern Ddu and Llanwenarth; E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at five locations, probably bred at six and possibly at a further six; GOWER: bred at Gnoll Park Lake and seen at nine other sites; CARMARTHEN: six locations but only confirmed breeding was at Hendre Fadog, between Gwernogle and Brechfa; PEMBROKE: 30 locations but breeding evidence at only six; CEREDIGION: 29 locations, with breeding pairs at 10; BRECON: 25 pairs located in June with several confirmed breeding; MEIRIONNYDD: probably bred at Cwm Cywarch and Lower Tryweryn, possibly at four other sites; CAERNARFON: bred at Henryd, Pensychnant and Penrhyn Castle; reported from nine other sites; DENBIGH: probably bred at Erddig Hall, Llyn Brenig and Alwen Res., and recorded at 17 other sites; FLINT: bred at Maes-y-grug, and recorded at 11 other sites.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GWENT (provisional)** | 12 May | Aberbeeg | | **23 Sept.** | **Newport Wetlands Reserve** |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 1 May | Bridgend | | 21 Sept. | Cosmeston Lakes CP |
| GOWER | 14 May | Millwood Penrice | | 19 Sept. | Afan Forest Park |
| CARMARTHEN | 2 June | Cilsan Bridge | | 31 July | Dinas |
| **PEMBROKE** | 3 May | Martin's Haven | | **23 Sept.** | **Cresselly** |
| **CEREDIGION** | **28 April** | **Llanrhystud** | | 10 Sept. | Bryn y Crofftau |
| BRECON | 1 May | Bronllys | | 31 Aug. | Y Byddwn |
| RADNOR | 3 May | Whitton | | 21 Sept. | Llanstephan |
| MONTGOMERY | 8 May | Allt Goch, Llanidloes | | 31 Aug. | Corndon Hill |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 7 May | Cwm Cywarch | | 15 Sept. | Penllyn, Tywyn |
| CAERNARFON | 2 May | Bardsey | | 21 Sept. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 6 May | Coedana | | 19 Sept. | Breakwater CP, Holyhead |
| DENBIGH | 7 May | Fenn's Moss | | 13 Sept. | Rhosrobin, Wrexham |
| FLINT | 3 May | Caerwys | | 23 Aug. | Pantymwyn |

The bird at Whitton on 3 May matches the earliest in RADNOR this century, in 2010.

Notable passage counts: E.GLAMORGAN: 10 at Lavernock on 23 Aug.; PEMBROKE: 17 on Skokholm on 19 Aug.; CAERNARFON: 35 on Bardsey on 15 Aug.

**ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula* ROBIN GOCH

*Abundant and widespread resident (905,000 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 13083 | 13492 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 58% | 67% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate returned to its pre-2018 level after a couple of years of substantial reduction, although this may partly be biased by increased recording in residential areas during 2020. The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019 was 18% below the 1994 baseline, having fallen by 23% since 2016.

Large counts (20+): GWENT: 27 at Aberbeeg on 21 April; 22 on Trellech Common on 4 May; E.GLAMORGAN: 27 at Kenfig NNR on 6 Feb.; 27 at Penmoelallt on 13 March; GOWER: 23 at Lower Gnoll Woods on 10 Jan.; 28 within 1-km square at Pelenna Forest on 7 April; PEMBROKE: 23 at Wiseman's Bridge on 20 Jan.; BRECON: 22 in song in Bwlchciliau, Irfon Forest, on 20 March; MEIRIONNYDD: 20+ migrants at Tonfanau on 29 Sept. and 30 here on 30 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 24 on the Great Orme on 19 Sept. and 44 here on 20th; autumn passage on Bardsey peaked at 59 on 12 Sept. and 57 on 4 Oct.; DENBIGH: 26 at Holt on 30 April and 32 here on 4 Oct.; 22 at Aberduna NR on 16 May, 22 on 17th and 25 on 30th; 21 at RSPB Conwy on 15 Oct.; 22 at Llanferres on 5 Nov.; FLINT: montly max. 36 in Gwernymyndd area on 26 April, 40 on 25 May, 22 on 15 June, 28 on 31 Aug. and 27 on 20 Sept.; 26 on Nercwys Mountain on 27 April.

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**BLUETHROAT** *Luscinia svecica* BRONLAS SMOTYN COCH

*Rare visitor from mainland Europe. WBRC: 51 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: male of the red-spotted subspecies ringed on Skokholm on 20 May.

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**NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos* EOS

*Former breeder, now scarce migrant. WBRC: 123 previous records.*

MONTGOMERY: the song of an unseen male was recorded by the Osprey nest camera at Cors Dyfi on 1 June. The last county record was a singing male that stayed on Moel-y-Golfa, near Middletown, for over a week in late May 1983.

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**RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula parva* GWYBEDOG BRONGOCH

*Scarce visitor, usually in autumn, from Scandinavia and eastern Europe. WBRC: 177 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: 1CY on Skomer on 21-23 Oct.; 1CY at Rhosson Farm, St Davids, on 22 Oct.

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**PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca* GWYBEDOG BRITH

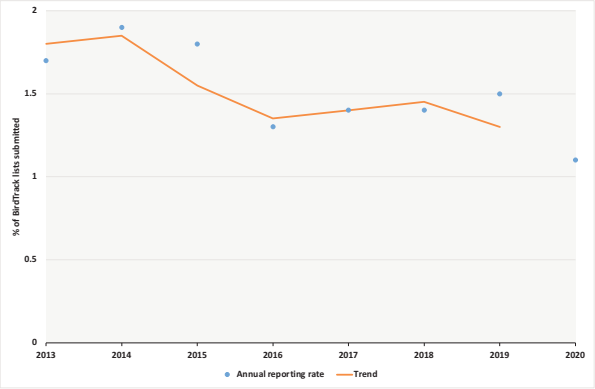
*Locally fairly common but declining summer visitor in most mainland counties (15,000-19,000 breeding territories). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 458 | 339 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 1% |

With fewer visits possible to Pied Flycatcher's favoured broad-leaf woodland habitats owing to travel restrictions, it is not surprising that the BirdTrack reporting rate fell to its lowest level, although by less than perhaps might have

been expected. However, the travel restrictions severely restricted nest monitoring to just two sites, where an average 5.37 young/pair fledged from 156 nests (*cf*. 3.96 from 162 attempts in 2019).

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Pied Flycatcher in Wales 2013-20**




Selected breeding records: GWENT: bred at Glan y Nant and Prisk Wood; E.GLAMORGAN: bred at Taf Fechan and present at four other locations; PEMBROKE: six territories in Cwm Gwaun/Llanychaer and single pairs at Ffynone, Llys-y-fran, Tŷ Canol and Pengelli, where 19 pulli were ringed; CEREDIGION: eight singing males at Denmark Farm; nine pairs at Coed Dolgoed fledged 50 young (5.55 young/pair); BRECON: eight at Llysdinam on 2 May; 20 at Rhiw, Llanwrthwl, on 3 May; 10 at Estyn on 8 May; 12 at Trawsnant on 20 May; 30 nestboxes occupied at The Cwm (previous max. 24 in 2011); 106 young fledged from 20 nestboxes at Nant Brân (5.3 young/pair); territories occupied at four other sites and present at a further 10; MONTGOMERY: 77 nestboxes occupied at RSPB Lake Vyrnwy; MEIRIONNYDD: bred at Cwm Cywarch and Pantperthog and probably bred at seven other sites; DENBIGH: bred at three sites; FLINT: bred at Pantymwyn.

Earliest and latest dates in each county (no records on ANGLESEY).

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 8 April | Caerleon | | 20 Sept. | Llanwenarth |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 13 April | Merthyr Mawr | | 16 Sept. | Kenfig NNR |
| GOWER | 17 May | Cilfrew | | no autumn records | |
| CARMARTHEN | 7 April | Gwynfe | | 31 July | Dinas & Hendre Fadog |
| **PEMBROKE** | 17 April | Pencarnan Camp, St Davids | | **18 Oct.** | **St Brides** |
| CEREDIGION | 6 April | Cwm Einion | | no autumn records | |
| BRECON | 5 April | The Cwm, Llanwrthwl | | 14 Sept. | The Cwm, Llanwrthwl |
| **RADNOR** | **4 April** | **Kilkenny Dingle** | | 9 Sept. | Bronydd |
| MONTGOMERY | 5 April | Felindre, Berriew | | 27 Aug. | Llyn Clywedog |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 6 April | Cwm Cywarch | | 16 Sept. | Rhiwbryfdir |
| CAERNARFON | 7 April | Parc yr Ocar & Nant Francon | | 18 Sept. | Bardsey |
| DENBIGH | 5 April | Llanarmon-yr-lal | | 18 Aug. | Lleweni watermeadows |
| FLINT | 8 April | Coed-y-felin, Hendre | | 15 June | Gwernymynydd |

The bird at Hendre on 8 April matched the earliest this century in FLINT, in 2004. There were many records later in the year than usual, including the latest this century in several counties: at Llanwrthwl on 14 Sept. was the latest in BRECON by 15 days; at Llyn Clywedog on 27 Aug. was the latest in MONTGOMERY by 17 days; and at Rhiwbryfdir on 16 Sept. was the latest in MEIRIONNYDD by 11 days.

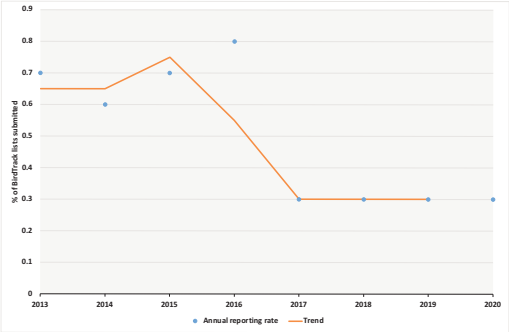
**BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros* TINGOCH DU

*Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers. Occasional breeder – RBBP: one territory in 2019. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 314 | 246 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate is very low, reflecting this species' scarcity in Wales. Most records are outside the breeding season so were less likely to be affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions, and the rate was identical to the previous three years.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Black Redstart in Wales 2013-20**




Breeding season: BRECON: male at Heol-las Farm near Cathedine on 3 May; FLINT: Pentre Halkyn on 1 May.

First winter period/spring passage, single birds unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: female at Penarth Marina from 1 Jan. to 15 March; West Aberthaw on 2 Jan.; Hendre Lake on 20 Jan.; Llanishen Res. on 28 Feb.; Porthcawl on 10 March; Pant-yr-Awel on 26 April; GOWER: Rhossili on 2 March; CARMARTHEN: Millenium Quay, Machynys from 21 Jan. to 5 Feb.; PEMBROKE: Llanychaer on 8-17 Jan.; Milford Haven on 14 Jan.; Fishguard on 21 Jan.; two at Ceibwr on 5-11 Jan.; Skokholm on 25 March, four here on 26th, singles on 1-2 April, 15 and 28 May; Skomer on 27 March; at least three on Ramsey in April; female at Johnston on 9 April; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 5 Jan.; Lampeter on 19 Jan.; Clarach on 20 Jan.; New Quay on 20 Jan.; Aberystwyth on 15 March; CAERNARFON: Craigside on 25 Jan. and 6-7 Feb., possibly same as Little Orme between 19 Jan. and 7 March; Bychestyn on 3 Feb.; Great Orme on 6 March, from 28 March to 2 April and on 3 May; daily records of 1-4 on Bardsey on 24-31 March, but six on 26th and one here on 1 June; ANGLESEY: RAF Valley on 27 March; Pencarreg, Cemlyn, on 10 April; Tyddyn Gele on 23 April.

**Black Redstart (Cameron Sharp)**

Autumn passage/second winter period: GWENT: two at Peterstone Wentlooge on 17 Nov.; Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21, 22 and 29 Nov., two on 28th and 1-2 on nine dates during 1-19 Dec.; Newport on 30 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: Bonvilston on 18 Oct.; Cardiff Airport on 8 Nov. and 7-29 Dec.; Nash Pt on 9 and 12 Nov.; Swanbridge, Sully, on 9-10 Nov.; Aberthaw Power Station on 15 Nov.; Cardiff Bay barrage on 16 Nov.; Pant Norton on 18 Nov.; near Cors Crychydd Reen on 21 Nov. and 9 Dec.; Flat Holm on 30 Nov.; Southerndown on 1 and 24 Dec.; East Aberthaw on 19 Dec.; North Cornelly cemetery on 28 Dec.; West Aberthaw on 28 Dec.; Sully bay on 29 Dec.; GOWER: Sandfields Estate, Port Talbot, on 20 Oct.; three females/immatures at Bracelet Bay on 3 Nov. and one on 5th, possibly same as at Mumbles Pier on 20-21 Nov.; Pennard Cliffs on 5 Dec.; Salthouse Pt on 10 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: Bronwydd Arms on 25 Nov.; Pembrey Airport on 19 Dec.; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 21-25 Oct., from 7 Nov. to 5 Dec., two on 12 and 20 Nov. and five here on 1 Dec.; two at St Brides from 21 Oct. to 21 Nov. and three here on 10 Nov.; Gann est. on 15 Oct., two here on 12-23 Nov. and one on 27th; Johnston on 21 Oct.; Dale on 26 Oct.; Poppit on 26 Nov.; St Davids on 30 Oct.; St Davids Head on 6 Nov.; two at Trefin on 9 Nov.; Tenby on 11 and 19 Nov.; Cwm yr Eglwys on 12 Nov.; Broad Haven on 13 Nov.; Abercastle on 13 Nov.; Newport on 17-18 Nov.; Penparc on 22 Nov.; three at Pwllcaerog on 26 Nov.; two at Solva Harbour on 27 Nov.; two at Fishguard Harbour on 12 Dec.; Waterston on 7 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth from 20 Oct. to end of year; Llangrannog on 6 Dec.; two at New Quay on 27 Dec.; RADNOR: Llanelwedd on 22 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: quarry near Pistyll Rhaeadr on 4 Dec.; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 14, 15, 19 and 21 Oct.; Bangor on 3-26 Nov.; up to four in Craigside on 7-28 Dec.; Caernarfon on 23 and 29 Nov.; Llandudno Junction on 26 Dec.; Tudweiliog on 20 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Cemaes on 18 Sept.; Gadfa on 22 Oct.; Breakwater CP and Soldier's Pt on 23 Oct.; Mynydd Bodafon on 6 Nov.; Carmel Head/Mynachdy on 10 Nov.; Breakwater CP, Holyhead, on 22 and 29 Nov.; south of Porthdafarch on 26 Nov. and two here on 27th; two at Amlwch Octel from 29 Nov. to year end; Pt Lynas on 1 Dec.; Moelfre Head on 1, 3 and 25 Dec.; Beaumaris on 25 Dec.; Holyhead Mountain on 30 Dec.

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**REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* TINGOCH

*Fairly common summer visitor in deciduous woodland and upland ffridd (50,500 breeding pairs), but scarce in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire. Passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **721** | **526** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **3%** | **2%** |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales fell 32% between 2012 and 2019, a trend also evident in the BirdTrack reporting rate, although the further drop in 2020 may indicate fewer visits to rural woodlands as a result of travel restrictions in spring.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 7 April | Caerleon | | 20 Sept. | Newport |
| **E.GLAMORGAN** | 6 April | Cardiff Bay | | **19 Nov.** | **Mynydd y Glog** |
| GOWER | 19 April | near Melincourt | | 7 Aug. | Abercregan |
| CARMARTHEN | 10 April | Llansadwrn | | 15 Oct. | Llanelli |
| PEMBROKE | 11 April | Martin's Haven | | 1 Oct. | Skokholm |
| CEREDIGION | 12 April | Henllan & Cwm Einion | | 27 Sept. | Aberaeron |
| BRECON | 9 April | The Cwm & Abergwesyn | | 14 Sept. | Cwm Gwdi, Beacons |
| **RADNOR** | **4 April** | **Elan Valley** | | 21 Sept. | Stanage |
| MONTGOMERY | 9 April | Forden | | 31 Aug. | Corndon Hill |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 8 April | Cwm Cywarch | | 30 Aug. | Cwm Cywarch |
| CAERNARFON | 8 April | near Moelyci farm, Tregarth | | 16 Sept. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 3 May | Cestyll gardens | | 3 Oct. | Malltraeth |
| DENBIGH | 8 April | Rhos-y-brithdir | | 30 Aug. | RSPB Conwy |
| FLINT | 27 March | Fagl Lane quarry | | 19 Oct. | Hendy Ponds |

The 27 March record in FLINT was the earliest in the county this century by 11 days. The bird at Mynydd y Glog on 19 Nov. matches the latest this century in E.GLAMORGAN and Wales, at Flat Holm in 2007.

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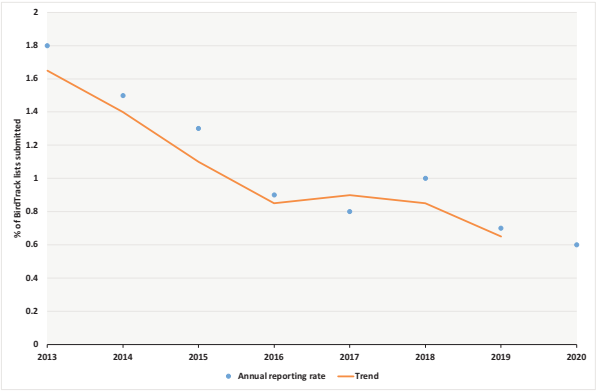
**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra* CREC YR EITHIN

*Localised and declining summer visitor, breeding in upland areas (2825 pairs in 2013). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **261** | **170** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

The UK Breeding Bird Survey index has fallen by 60% since its peak in 1996 and although no trend can be generated for Wales as the species is already too scarce, the decline in the BirdTrack reporting rate will surprise few Welsh birders. Limited access to the uplands in spring and early summer will have suppressed the reporting rate further, but the direction of travel direction is clear.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Whinchat in Wales 2013-20**




Breeding: GWENT: at least two broods on the Blorenge; territories on Mynydd Llangatwg and Mynydd Garn Clochdy; E.GLAMORGAN: nested on Mynydd Pwll-y-lwrch, Maesteg, on the very early date of 29 April; possibly bred at Cwmparc, Cwm Cadlan and Tarren y Fforch in the Ogmore Valley; GOWER: 1-2 pairs at Cwm Nant-y-Fedw; CARMARTHEN: bred near Llyn Brianne; eight pairs on Mynydd Mallaen; 1-2 birds at three other sites; PEMBROKE: bred at Eiddbed, Maenglochog; three at Brynbeirian on 19 July and up to three at Tafarn-y-Bwlch from 7 May to 26 July; CEREDIGION: seven singing males at Cwm Brefi on 20 May; BRECON: evidence of breeding at four sites; also at four other sites in May and singles at two sites in the Black Mountains; MEIRIONNYDD: recorded at five sites; CAERNARFON: present in Cwm Eigiau and near

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 19 April | Mynydd Llangatwg | | 23 Sept. | Newport Wetlands Reserve |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 24 April | Clawdd-Trawscae | | 29 Sept. | Nash |
| GOWER | no spring records | | | 21 Sept. | Llanrhidian Marsh |
| CARMARTHEN | 21 May | Cwm Pedol | | 21 Sept. | Caedelyn Farm, Llanedi |
| PEMBROKE | 28 April | Trefin | | 12 Oct. | Skokholm & Dale Airfield |
| CEREDIGION | 25 April | Cyneiniog | | 25 Sept. | Llanrhystud |
| BRECON | 18 April | Mynydd Illtyd & Llangasty | | 22 Sept. | Forest Fach, Defynnog |
| RADNOR | 21 April | The Begwyns | | 15 Oct. | The Begwyns |
| MONTGOMERY | 22 April | Llandyssil | | no autumn records | |
| **MEIRIONNYDD** | **10 April** | **Bwlch y Cwm** | | 10 Sept. | Llidiardau |
| CAERNARFON | 22 April | Great Orme | | 4 Oct. | Bardsey |
| **ANGLESEY** | 12 April | RSPB Cors Ddyga | | **21 Oct.** | **RSPB Cors Ddyga** |
| DENBIGH | 26 April | Brymbo Pool | | 30 Aug. | Nant y Ffrith Reservoir |
| FLINT | 21 April | Saltney Ferry | | 17 Sept. | Gronant |

Aber Falls; DENBIGH: bred on Ruabon Moor; family party at Lleweni watermeadows in July; recorded at 12 other suitable sites; FLINT: one at Moel Llys-y-coed on 27 April was the only record in suitable breeding habitat.

Notable passage (10+ birds): BRECON: 15 near Llanwrthl on 3 Aug.

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**STONECHAT** *Saxicola rubicola* CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

*Fairly common resident (12,082 pairs in 2013) in uplands and coastal heath, though numbers vary as a result of winter and spring weather. More widespread in winter. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3684 | 3232 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 15% | 14% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reached a new high in 2019, 191% above the 1994 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate also reached a new high in 2019, and was only marginally lower in 2020 despite travel restrictions.

Autumn passage: GWENT: 17 on Mynydd Llangatwg on 1 July and 31 Aug. and 15 on 14 Sept.; 18 on the Blorenge on 10 July; 17 on Waunavon Bog on 5 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 32 at Lavernock Pt on 7 Oct.; 12 at Ogmore est. on 28 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 10 at Gors Fawr on 12 July; 10 at Broad Haven on 14 July; 14 on Skomer on 4 Sept.; 10 at Ninewells on 5 Sept.; 15 at Martin's Haven on 10 Sept.; 25 on Plumstone Mountain on 16 Sept.; 10 at Carn Ingli on 20 Sept.; 14 at Pwllcaerog on 26 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 53 on Mynydd Rhiw on 14 Sept.; 42 on Bardsey on 26 Aug., 71 on 30th and peaks of 32 in Sept. and 40 on 1 Oct.

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**WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe* TINWEN Y GARN

*Fairly common summer visitor, chiefly around upland pasture (13,759 breeding pairs). Abundant passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1589 | 1108 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 6% | 4% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019 was 48% below its 1994 level, all of the decline having occurred since 2010. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wheatear showed an even greater reduction during 2013-19 (it averaged 11.7% of lists in 2013-14), but the low point in 2020 will be partly a result of a smaller proportion

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 22 March | Mynydd Llangatwg | | 5 Oct. | West Pill |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 13 March | Sker | | 10 Nov. | Sker Point |
| GOWER | 13 March | Cil y Gofid Farm, Bryn | | 19 Oct. | Rhossili Down |
| **CARMARTHEN** | 14 March | Ginst Point | | **21 Nov.** | **below Garreg Lwyd** |
| **PEMBROKE** | **6 March** | **Plumstone** | | 8 Nov. | Dale Airfield |
| CEREDIGION | 16 March | New Quay & Llanon | | 17 Oct. | Ynyslas |
| BRECON | 21 March | Brechfa Common | | 17 Oct. | Werntoe, Llandefalle Hill |
| RADNOR | 15 March | The Begwyns | | 31 Oct. | Whimble |
| MONTGOMERY | 10 April | Penstrowed, Newtown | | 24 Sept. | Moel-y-Garth, Welshpool |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 15 March | Tonfanau | | 21 Oct. | Y Maes, Llandanwg |
| CAERNARFON | 12 March | Great Orme | | 14 Nov. | Great Orme |
| ANGLESEY | 14 March | Cemlyn | | 29 Oct. | Traeth yr Ora |
| DENBIGH | 20 March | Minera Moor | | 11 Oct. | Ruabon Mountain |
| FLINT | 17 March | Shotwick | | 9 Oct. | Gwernymynydd |

of lists being submitted from the coast during spring migration and the uplands in summer.

The bird on the Great Orme on 14 Nov. was the latest CAERNARFON record this century by two days.

Spring passage counts >=10: GWENT: 20 at Trefil Quarries on 24 June; PEMBROKE: 28 at St Ann's Head on 23 April; counts on Skokholm included 20 on 26 March, 83 on 13 April, 29 on 23 May and 33 on 20 June; CEREDIGION: 22 at Pen Dinas on 21 March; CAERNARFON: 88 on Bardsey on 15 April, 244 on 16th and 129 on 22nd.

Autumn passage counts >=10: GWENT: 16 at West Pill on 17 Aug.; 22 at Collister Pill on 26 Aug. and 15 here on 30 Aug.; E.GLAMORGAN: 15 at Kenfig on 17 Aug.; GOWER: 25 at Rhossili on 10 July; 11 at Rhossili Down on 19 Oct.; PEMBROKE: 30 at St Govan's Head on 20 Sept.; 30 on Skokholm on 16 July, 41 on 30 Aug., 50 on 23 Sept. and 11 on 2 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 47 on Bardsey on 30 Aug. and up to 46 in mid-Sept.

***O.o. leucorhoa* (Greenland Wheatear / Tinwen y Garn yr Ynys Las)**
Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race, singles unless stated: E.GLAMORGAN: two females on Mynydd Eglwysilan on 18 May; CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 11 April; Dredger Jetty, Pwll, on 20 April; PEMBROKE: 49 on Skokholm on 13 April; five on Gann est. on 13 and 23 April, six here on 30 April and one on 9 May; most of a group of 13 at Kete on 18 April were this subspecies; five at Ridgeway on 22 April and two here on 2 May; most of a flock of 15 at Martin's Haven on 23 April; two at St Ann's Head on 13 April and five on 19 April; Martin's Haven on 2 May; Marloes Mere on 16 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 30 in fields at Rhiw on 28 April; FLINT: Point of Ayr on 24 April; Hawarden Ind. Park on 26 May.

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**ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe isabellina* TINWEN FELYNLLWYD
*Very rare visitor from west and central Asia. BBRC: seven previous records.*

2019 CAERNARFON: 1CY at Llandudno on 2 Oct.

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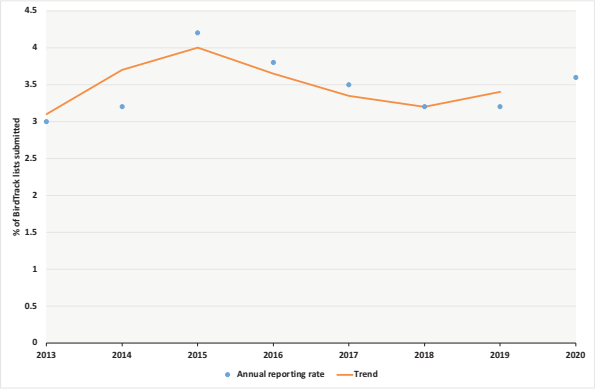
**DIPPER** *Cinclus cinclus* BRONWEN Y DWR
*Fairly common resident of fast flowing streams, particularly in hill areas (1150-4050 breeding pairs). In winter, upland birds move downstream. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 920 | 903 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 3% | 4% |

The Waterways Bird Survey index for the UK has declined steadily since 1995, by 28% to 2019. There is no index for Wales. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales shows a less clear picture, with an increase over each of the last two years.

Selected breeding season records: GWENT: nest-building in Feb. and the first full clutch found on 13 March at Llanthony; nine nests on R.Honddu; five nests on R.Monnow; five nests/territories in the Angidy valley and one in the Whitebrook valley; E.GLAMORGAN: nest-building in Ystrad Mynach on 25 Jan.; bred at ten localities and pairs seen in 14 other sites; GOWER: bred at six locations, including six pairs on R.Afan between Velindre and Rhyslyn, five pairs on R.Ffrydwyllt between Taibach and Ty'n y Fram; probably bred at two other sites; CARMARTHEN: two breeding pairs at Stradey Woods, along Nant Dyfatty in Burry Port and along R.Gwili at Bronwydd; single pairs at Gwili-Tywi confluence and Pont Andrew, Cwm-mawr; PEMBROKE: evidence from two locations; BRECON: 20 territories along R.Usk, eight on R.Wye and eight elsewhere on the Tawe, Mellte, Tarrell and Sorgwm and at Dolymynach Res.; MEIRIONNYDD: 1-2 pairs at min. 10 sites but breeding confirmed only at Cwm Cywarch; CAERNARFON: records widespread but no confirmed breeding; ANGLESEY: three birds on R.Cefni at Llangefni on 29 Jan. and one on 4 March;

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Dipper in Wales 2013-20**




DENBIGH: bred at Bodnant Garden, Erddig and Llanfwrog, and present at *c.*19 other sites during March-July; FLINT: in suitable habitat at St Asaph, Mold Leadmills and on R.Nant-y-fflint during March to July.

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**TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus* GOLFAN MYNYDD

*Declining and localised resident, with a patchy distribution (200-325 breeding pairs). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 45 | 20 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

A further small increase in the number of records, many stemming from increased participation in the BTO Garden Birdwatch, a project in which the reporting rate of 3.8% of participating gardens in June was the highest since April 2006. Bird reports confirmed breeding in BRECON and suggest it in CARMARTHEN and ANGLESEY.

All records, singles unless stated: CARMARTHEN: two pairs at Ro-Fawr during breeding season; PEMBROKE: Furzy Park estate, Haverfordwest, from Dec. 2019 to 5 Jan.; Little Haven on 7 Feb.; Pencarnan Camp, St Davids, on 4 April; three on Skomer 16 May; Broad Haven on 17 Oct.; BRECON: eight at Lower Chapel on 25 Feb., seven here on 15 March and a "healthy number" of juveniles from first broods in mid-June; MONTGOMERY: Sarn on 1 Jan. and two here on 25 Nov.; Machynlleth on 8 June; Cors Dyfi on 29 Sept.; singles in gardens at Tregynon and Churchstoke throughout the year; CAERNARFON: Bardsey on 13-15 Oct., where it was ringed, and over the island on 17th; ANGLESEY: Bryn Gors Farm, Nant yr Odyn near Llangefni, on 21 March; at least one pair near Gwalchmai in breeding season; DENBIGH: garden in central Wrexham on 2 Aug.; FLINT: Cilcain garden throughout the year; two at Babell on 18 Feb.; garden in St Asaph on 22 March; garden at Higher Kinnerton on several dates during April-July; seven in a garden in Dyserth on 10 May; up to six in a garden at Padeswood between 19 May and 26 July; 15 in a garden at Trelawnyd on 24 May; four in a garden in Greenfield on 31 May and three here on 14 June; garden at Gwaenysgor on several dates in June-Aug.; 23 in a Berthengam garden on 6 Sept.

**HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus* ADERYN Y TO

*Abundant and widespread resident (800,000 breeding pairs). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 7807 | 8028 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 35% | 39% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales was 92% higher in 2019 than in 1994. The BirdTrack reporting rate reached its highest level in 2020, most likely reflecting the greater proportion of lists submitted from residential areas. In CAERNARFON, Bardsey recorded its first since 2015, with a female in Sept. and another two in Oct.

Counts >=70 include: PEMBROKE: 100 at Newport on 16 Aug.; BRECON: 100 at Pennorth on 25 Jan.; 100 at Dderw on 9 Aug.; 75 at Llangorse in Dec.; CAERNARFON: up to 70 at Hafod Lane, Bangor, in Sept. and Oct.; ANGLESEY: seed provided in a Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn garden attracted max. 91 in June, 111 in July, 108 in Aug., 79 in Sept., 72 in Oct. and 73 in Nov. (<70 in other months); FLINT: 70 in a garden in Lower Kinnerton on 19 July.

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**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis* LLWYD Y GWRYCH

*Abundant breeding resident (310,000 territories). Occasional post-breeding movements noted on the islands. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 9164 | 9160 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 41% | 46% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales has remained stable over the last 15 years, and although the BirdTrack reporting rate was higher in 2020 than the previous two years, it was well within the range of its 2013-17 level.

Counts >=10: GWENT: up to 13 regularly at Osbaston in Feb.-May; 12 at Wentwood on 18 March; 10 on the hillside above Six Bells on 26 March; 10 at Aberbeeg on 11 May; E.GLAMORGAN: 13 at Kenfig NNR on 7 Feb.; 10 at Llanishen/Lisvane Res. on 25 Feb.; 15 at Forest Farm NR on 5 March; 11 at Cadoxton Ponds on 7 March; 16 on Flat Holm on 9 Nov.; 20 at Nash Pt on 22 Nov.; 20+ at Forest Farm on 6 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 13 at Westfield Pill on 3 March; 27 at Pwllcaerog on 26 Nov.; BRECON: 12 at Eligro, Llangorse, on 6 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 10 at Mynydd Rhiw on 5 Nov.; 12 at Eithinog, Bangor, on 19 March; 14 on the Great Orme on 20 Sept.; 15 territories on Bardsey (10 in 2019); with regular counts of 30+ here throughout Oct., max. 45 on 16th; DENBIGH:15 in a garden at Marford on 11 Oct.; 12 at RSPB Conwy on 15 Oct.; FLINT: max. 17 at Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn, on 14 April; 21 in a garden in Gwernymynydd on 26 April.

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**WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava flavissima* SIGLEN FELEN Y GORLLEWIN

*Declining, now scarce, breeder and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.*

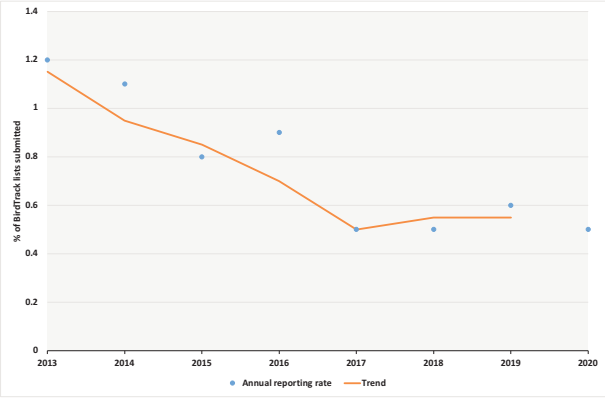
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 212 | 175 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

This species is too scarce for a Breeding Bird Survey trend to be generated for Wales. The frequency of occurrence on BirdTrack lists in Wales is low and had been falling until 2017. With less access to the coast during spring migration, it is perhaps surprising that the reporting rate in 2020 was so similar to the previous three years. No data were available from GWENT or BRECON, which have been the main breeding sites in recent years, but there may have been nesting attempts in northeastern Wales.

Breeding: MONTGOMERY: two pairs at Bacheldre, near Montgomery; DENBIGH: one in suitable habitat south of Bettisfield in June; FLINT: three pairs in Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

Notable passage: GWENT: 10 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 16 Aug. and 2 Sept., and 12 here on 5th; 13 at Collister Pill on 23 Aug. and 11 on 29th; RADNOR: 30 roosted at Llowes on 19 Aug.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Western Yellow Wagtail in Wales 2013-20**




Earliest and latest dates in each county (no records for MEIRIONNYDD).

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GWENT (provisional) | 19 April | Llandenny | | 25 Sept. | Undy foreshore |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 15 April | Garth Mountain | | 21 Sept. | Sker Farm |
| GOWER | 8 May | Crymlyn Burrows | | 14 Sept. | Mewslade |
| CARMARTHEN | 25 April | Halfway, Llanegwad | | 7 Sept. | Kidwelly Quay |
| PEMBROKE | 3 May | Skokholm | | 21 Sept. | Gann estuary |
| CEREDIGION | no spring records | | | 26 Aug. | Llanrhystud |
| RADNOR | 14 April | Glasbury | | 21 Sept. | Llowes |
| BRECON | 18 April | Llangasty Point | | 5 Sept. | Llangorse Common |
| **MONTGOMERY** | 27 May | Dyfi Bridge, Machynlleth | | **1 Oct.** | **Bacheldre** |
| **CAERNARFON** | **7 April** | **Great Orme** | | 16 Sept. | Bardsey |
| ANGLESEY | 23 April | Cemaes | | 21 Sept. | Breakwater CP, Holyhead |
| DENBIGH | no spring records | | | 4 Sept. | RSPB Conwy |
| FLINT | 17 April | Gronant | | 5 Aug. | RSPB Point of Ayr |

***M.f. flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail / Siglen Felen Benlas)**
*Uncommon passage migrant, primarily to coastal sites in spring.*
All singles. E.GLAMORGAN: Sker Farm on 16 April; PEMBROKE: Skokholm on 9 May; CAERNARFON: Bychestyn on 19 April.

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**EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla tschutschensis* SIGLEN FELEN Y DWYRAIN
*Extremely rare vagrant from eastern Asia. BBRC: one previous record.*

CAERNARFON: 1CY on Bardsey on 3-6 Oct.

**CITRINE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla citreola* SIGLEN SITRAIDD

*Rare visitor from eastern Europe and Asia. WBRC: 12 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: 1CY on Skokholm on 27 Aug.; CAERNARFON: heard over Bardsey on 16 Aug., presumed same here on 20-28 Aug.

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**GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea* SIGLEN LWYD

*Fairly common breeding resident (5950 pairs), mainly along fast-flowing streams in all counties. Most move downstream in winter. Wales Amber listed.*

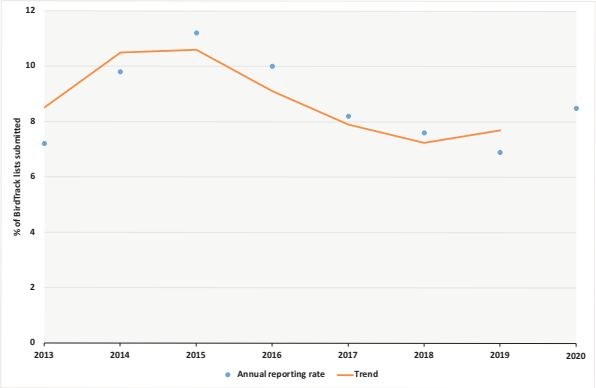
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1738 | 2047 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 7% | 9% |

The Waterways Breeding Bird Survey index for the UK has shown a long-term decline and fell by 21% during 2016-19. There is no Wales index. The BirdTrack reporting rate for Wales had been showing a similar recent trend, but bucked that with an increase in 2020. What might this tell us about the relative health of the Grey Wagtail population in urban and suburban areas compared to more rural habitats? There was a small but marked movement along the South Wales coast during the first three weeks of September, extending to Pembrokeshire and Cardigan Bay.

Counts >=10: GWENT: a Welsh record 75 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 4 Sept., 47 on 5th,

**Grey Wagtail (Andy Davis)**

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Grey Wagtail in Wales 2013-20**




27 on 7th and 16 on 21st; 62 recorded on 200km of rivers surveyed in Nov. and 59 in Dec. (Tyler and Clarke 2021); E.GLAMORGAN: 14 on R.Taff near Whitchurch in July; 11 at Lavernock Pt on 14 Sept., 12 here on 19th and 10 on 22nd; 23 at Temple Bay, Dunraven, on 17 Sept., and 14 here on 21st; 10 at Cardiff Bay on 22 Sept., 14 here on 22 Oct., and 12 on 8 Dec.; GOWER: 20+ at Oxwich NNR on 31 Aug. and 10+ here on 6 Sept.; 25+ at Southgate on 4 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 23 at Penclacwydd on 12 Sept.; 16 at Morfa Bacas on 14 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 10 at Haverfordwest on 21 Sept.; CEREDIGION: 11 at New Quay on 17 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 21 on Bardsey on 20 Aug. and 52 here on 15 Sept.

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**PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba yarrellii* SIGLEN FRAITH

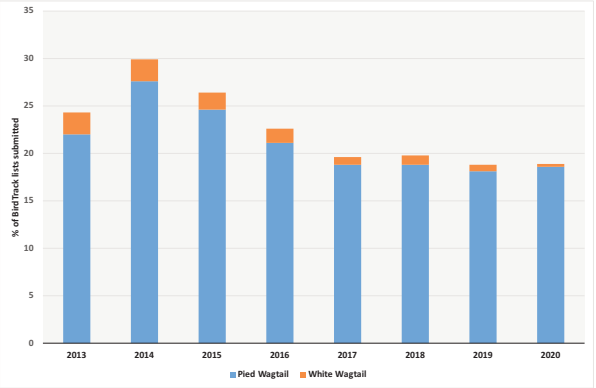
*Fairly common and widespread breeding resident (56,000 breeding pairs). Passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 5609 | 5048 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 24% | 24% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate for *yarrellii* Pied Wagtail in 2020 was surprisingly consistent with previous years given the greater proportion of lists submitted from residential areas, but the proportion of *alba* White Wagtail was lower than usual, as the peak of lockdown in April coincided with the main passage period.

Counts >=100 of *yarrellii*: GWENT: 500 roosted at Newport Friar's Walk bus station on 23 Feb.; 316 (including *alba* White Wagtails) at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Sept. and 114 here on 22nd; E.GLAMORGAN: 170 roosted by NRW's office at St Mellons on 9 Jan.; 100+ at Flemingston Moor on 15 Jan. and 20 Feb.; 150 in Bridgend town centre on 28 Jan. and 100 here on 11 Feb.; GOWER: 153 at Castell-du, Upper Loughor, on 6 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 147 at Pwll on 6 Oct. and *c*.300 in reedbed at Hendy Nature Trail; PEMBROKE: 100 roosted at Withybush on 12 March; CEREDIGION: 100 at Llanrhystud on 14 Aug.; BRECON: 150 in pre-roost at Llangorse in March, and 170 in Oct.; DENBIGH: 300 at Bodelwyddan on 5 Feb.; FLINT: 150 at Connah's Quay NR on 23 Jan. and 100 here on 20 March.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Pied and White Wagtail in Wales 2013-20**



***M.a.alba* (White Wagtail / Siglen Wen)**
*Passage migrant in spring and autumn, mainly of Icelandic population.*
The first, at Aber Ogwen, CAERNARFON, was on the early date of 29 Feb. Spring passage counts >=5 birds: E.GLAMORGAN: six at Sker Pt on 11 April; GOWER: eight at Llanrhidian on 8 March; six at Rheola Pond on 15 March; six at Salthouse Pt on 26 April; CAERNARFON: six at Porthdinllaen/Nefyn on 10 April; seven at Glan-y-môr Elias on 14 April; ANGLESEY: 20 at Cemlyn on 7 April; 55 at Cemaes on 9 April and 35 here on 24th; 50 at Gadlys, Cemaes, on 11 April.

Autumn passage counts >=5: PEMBROKE: 11 at Dale Airfield on 9 Sept.; 10 at Mabsgate on 12 Sept.; five on Gann est. on 19 Sept.; 13 on Skokholm on 31 Aug. and 19 here on 17 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: mixed flocks on the Broadwater totalled 31 on 19 July, 27 on 28 July, 19 on 23 Aug. and 46 on 28 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 36 on Bardsey on 24 Aug., 74 on 30th and 31 on 31st, 143 on 6 Sept., 123 on 11th and 204 on 15th; FLINT: nine at Gronant on 29 Sept.

Records from inland sites: CARMARTHEN: Llyn Brianne on 18 Aug.; BRECON: Talyllyn on 26 March; Libanus on 9 April; Garnlydan Res. on 3 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: Bala WTW on 5 April; Lower Tryweryn on 3-4 Sept.

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**RICHARD'S PIPIT** *Anthus richardi* CORHEDYDD RICHARD
*Uncommon autumn passage migrant. Now proven to winter regularly in southwest France from east Asian breeding range, thought to be via a route north of the Alps.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 11 | 5 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Six records, all single birds. GWENT: Undy foreshore on 19 Oct.; CEREDIGION: Constitution hill, Aberystwyth, on 21 Oct. and 12 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: Tonfanau on 15 Oct., the third county record (last in 2001); CAERNARFON: south past Bardsey on 22 Oct.; ANGLESEY: Tŷ'n Llan, Cemlyn, on 1 Jan.

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**MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis* CORHEDYDD Y WAUN
*Abundant and widespread breeding species, especially on moorland (170,000 pairs). Winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 4766 | 3703 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 20% | 17% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales in 2019 was 15% below its 1994 baseline and 36% below its 2002 peak. The BirdTrack reporting rate showed a similar reduction, although the record low in 2020 will have been partly a result of fewer lists being submitted from upland and coastal habitats. The breeding population on Bardsey, CAERNARFON, bounced back from a 12-year low, with 102 territories (*cf*. 46 in 2019), 90% higher than then long-term average (1953-2020).

Late winter/spring counts >=100: GWENT: 100 at Llanishen on 18 Jan.; ANGLESEY: max. 500 at South Stack on 16 March; FLINT: *c*.120 on Rhyl GC on 11 April; 107 at Gronant dunes on 17 April.

Max. daily counts (>=100) on the GWENT coast in early autumn.

| *Month* | *September* | | | | | | | | | | *Oct.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Date* | *5* | *7* | *11* | *14* | *17* | *19* | *20* | *21* | *22* | *28* | *6* |
| Count | 163 | 164 | 876 | 220 | 698 | 200+ | 150 | 2570 | 1169 | 146 | 376 |

Autumn/early winter counts >=100: GWENT: most counts in table above from Newport Wetlands Reserve

(Goldcliff), but also Sudbrook (17th), Peterstone Wentlooge (20th) and Undy (28 Sept. and 6 Oct.); E.GLAMORGAN: counts at Lavernock Pt included 185 on 18 Sept., 210 on 19th, 220 on 20th and 700 on 21st; 250 at Temple Bay, Dunraven, on 14 Sept.; 103 at Kenfig NNR on 18 Sept.; 450 at Rumney Great Wharf on 18 Sept. and 100 here on 5 Oct.; 220 on Mynydd Eglwysilan on 24 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 120 at Penclacwydd on 12 Sept.; 150 east at Morfa Bacas on 14 Sept.; PEMBROKE: 177 on Skokholm on 1 Oct.; MONTGOMERY: 120 near Dyfi Junction station on 13 Sept.; MEIRIONNYDD: 120 at Yr Ynys, Pennal, on 13 Sept.; CAERNARFON: 102 on Mynydd Rhiw on 30 July; monthly max./day on Bardsey included 191 in Aug., 596 in Sept. (on 15th) and 180 in Oct.; DENBIGH: 100 at World's End on 16 July and 3 Aug.

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**TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis* CORHEDYDD Y COED

*Fairly common, but localised, summer visitor (16,500 breeding pairs) and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **389** | **317** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **1%** | **1%** |

The downward trend in the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales, by 31% between 1994 and 2019, has been reflected in the BirdTrack reporting rate, although the low point in 2020 (1.1% of lists) will have been influenced by travel restrictions to rural areas.

Earliest and latest dates in each county.

| | Earliest | Site | | Latest | Site |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **GWENT (provisional)** | **5 April** | **Wentwood** | | **17 Oct.** | **Newport Wetlands (Goldcliff)** |
| E.GLAMORGAN | 8 April | Blaen Cwmdu & Caerau Forest | | 28 Sept. | Cosmeston Lakes CP |
| **GOWER** | **5 April** | **Upper Neath valley** | | 7 Oct. | Pwlldu Head |
| CARMARTHEN | 8 April | Gelli Aur & Gweunydd Cochin | | 12 Sept. | Penclacwydd |
| PEMBROKE | 20 April | Skomer | | 1 Sept. | Skomer |
| CEREDIGION | 11 April | Foel Fawr | | no autumn records | |
| RADNOR | 15 April | Aberedw Hill | | 21 Sept. | Glasbury |
| BRECON | 9 April | Allt-yr-esgair | | 12 Oct. | Bronllys |
| MONTGOMERY | 12 April | Ceinws | | 21 Sept. | Corndon Hill |
| MEIRIONNYDD | 7 April | Llyn Tanygrisiau | | 29 July | Ddualllt |
| CAERNARFON | 8 April | Penrhyn Bay | | 1 Oct. | Moel Faban |
| ANGLESEY | 9 April | South Stack | | no autumn records | |
| DENBIGH | 25 April | Croes yr Esgob | | 20 July | Alwen Reservoir |
| FLINT | 17 April | Gronant dunes | | no autumn records | |

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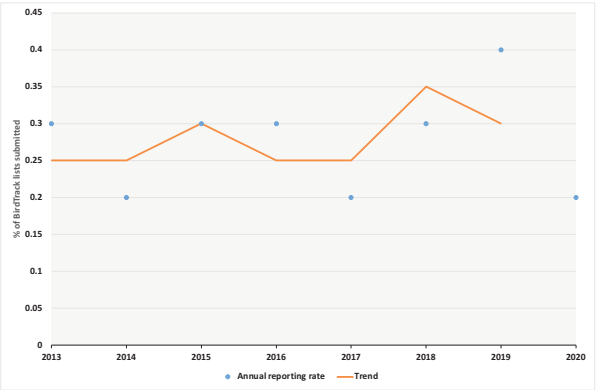
**WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta* CORHEDYDD Y DWR

*Uncommon, but locally numerous, winter visitor, mainly to coastal areas, and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **217** | **118** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **<1%** | **<1%** |

There were double-figures counts in GWENT in February and CARMARTHEN in March and October, but away from ANGLESEY it was scarce in North Wales.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Water Pipit in Wales 2013-20**




First winter period, single birds unless stated: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve on 5 Jan.; max. 10 (on 11 Feb.) at Peterstone Sluice Farm, with nine still present on 13 March; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. from 1 Jan. to 2 April, and two here on 8 Feb.; Rumney Great Wharf on 15 Jan., six here on 13 Feb., seven on 14th and four on 1 March; East Aberthaw on 6 March; GOWER: Knelston on 13 Jan.; max. six at Penclawdd on 15 Jan.; 1-3 at Loughor est. until 20 March; 2-4 on Neath est. during period and seven on 12 March; CARMARTHEN: two at Penclacwydd in Jan., 14 in March and one in April; three at Coedbach on 12 Feb.; Llangennech on 26 March; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. from Jan. to March; PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: Teifi est. on 20 Jan., 5 and 10 Feb.; CEREDIGION: R.Clettwr on 5 Feb.; ANGLESEY: Inland Sea on 1 Jan.; two at RSPB Cors Ddyga on 4 Jan.; two at Red Wharf Bay on 11 March.

Second winter period: GWENT: Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 10 and 13 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: Ogmore est. from 3 Nov. to 27 Dec., with two here on 12 and 14 Dec.; GOWER: Penclawdd on 6 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 10 at Kidwelly Marsh on 18 Oct.; Penclacwydd in Oct., two in Nov. and one in Dec.; PEMBROKE: Nevern est. from 1 Nov. to end of year; Castlemartin Corse on 26 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 20 Oct.; CAERNARFON: two at Penrhyn Bay on 28 Dec. and one here on 30-31st; ANGLESEY: Cemlyn on 10 Oct.; Amlwch Octel on 20 Oct.; Traeth Dulas on 29 Oct. and 7 Nov.; RSPB Cors Ddyga on 9 Nov. and 2 Dec., and two here on 10th; Red Wharf Bay on 27 Nov. and two here on 15 Dec.; Cefni est. on 28 Nov.; FLINT: Gronant dunes on 2 Dec.

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**ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus* CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

*Localised, fairly common resident of rocky coastlines, except in Flintshire and Gwent. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to estuaries from Scandinavia. Wales Green listed.*

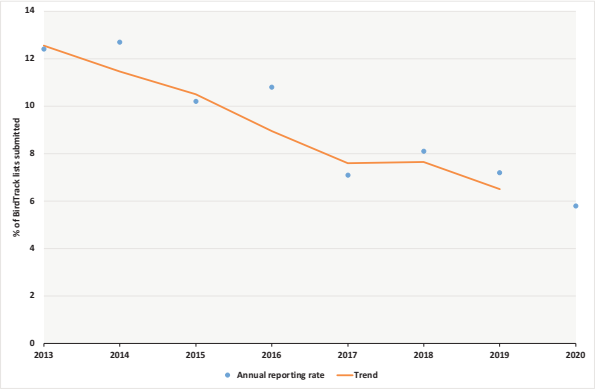
| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 1741 | 1300 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 7% | 6% |

No UK monitoring scheme tracks Rock Pipit numbers, so the BirdTrack reporting rate, which is high in Wales relative to the other UK nations, is the only guide to trends. Limited travel to the coast for part of the year will have affected the 2020 reporting rate, but it is not greatly out of kilter with the trend since 2013.

Selected breeding records: E.GLAMORGAN: confirmed at Cadoxton rivermouth, Ogmore Deeps, Rhoose Pt, and Sully shoreline; GOWER: bred at Longhole Cliff and Margam Sands, and present at 12 other sites; PEMBROKE: 30 pairs on Ramsey; CARMARTHEN: three pairs bred at Burry Port and Pembrey harbours; CAERNARFON: 44 pairs on Bardsey fledged average 1.13 young.

Counts >=10: E.GLAMORGAN: 13 at Dunraven on 5 Feb.; 10 at Ogmore Deeps on 3 Aug.; 11 on Flat Holm on 26 Aug. and nine here on 18 Oct.; 11 at Nash Pt on 9 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 17 at Ginst Pt on 12 Dec.; CAERNARFON: see table below; ANGLESEY: 10 at Red Wharf Bay on 11 March and 27 Nov., increasing to 12 on 15 Dec.; 18 at Soldier's Pt on 19 Oct.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Rock Pipit in Wales 2013-20**




Monthly max. on Bardsey, CAERNARFON.

| | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bardsey | 17 | 26 | 28 | 49 | 43 | 57 | 65 | 44 |

***A.p. littoralis* (Scandinavian Rock Pipit / Corhedydd y Graig Llychlyn)**
*Passage migrant, but probably under-recorded.*
GOWER: two at Neath est. on 12 March.

Ringing: CAERNARFON: two colour-ringed on Bardsey in autumn 2015 were resighted in 2020, one at Knokke in Belgium in Sept. and the other near Århus, Denmark, in Dec.

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**CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs* JI-BINC
*Abundant resident (470,000 breeding territories), passage migrant and winter visitor. Wales Green listed*.

| | **2019** | **2020** |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **8857** | **7813** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **39%** | **38%** |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales was 38% lower in 2019 than in 1994, a greater decline than elsewhere in the UK. The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales also fell to a new low in 2020, 28% less than in 2015.

Counts >150 in first winter period: GOWER: *c*.190 feeding on fallen beechmast at Briton Ferry Woods on 1 March; PEMBROKE: 265 at Minwear on 11 Jan.; CEREDIGION: 300 at Pontrhydygroes on 28 Feb.

Passage was evident along the south and northwest coasts from early October to late November, with the main movements on 19 Oct. and 3-7 Nov., and higher counts in Pembrokeshire in early December.

Counts >=100 from selected watchpoints.

| *Month* | *October* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | *November* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Date* | *3* | *7* | *9* | *14* | *15* | *16* | *17* | *18* | *19* | *20* | *22* | *26* | *27* | *28* | *6* | *7* | *8* | *9* |
| Lavernock Pt, E.GLAM. | 180 | 250 | 250 | 560 | 570 | 760 | 310 | 1040 | 880 | 400 | 350 | | | | 600 | 1510 | 670 | 2120 |
| Bangor Mountain, CAERN | | | | | 131 | | | | 1043 | | | | 350 | 336 | | | | |
| Bardsey, CAERNARFON | | | | 206 | 153 | | | 238 | | | | 192 | | | | | | |

Counts >=150 elsewhere in autumn/second winter period: GWENT: 320 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 5 Oct.; 460 at Undy foreshore on 19 Oct.; 250 at Peterstone Sluice Farm on 3 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: 320 at Flat Holm on 19 Oct.; 250 at Rumney Great Wharf on 3 Nov.; PEMBROKE: 500 at Martletwy on 2 Dec.; 300 at Landshipping/Coedcanlas on 7 Dec.; CEREDIGION: 200 at Llanrhystud on 16 Oct.; 1200 past New Quay on 17 Oct. and 383 here on 23rd; 200 at Horeb on 20 Oct.; BRECON: 150 at Talybont Res. on 9 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 910 over Llanfairfechan in one hour on 22 Oct.; 1666 over the Great Orme on 28 Oct.; ANGLESEY: 250 at Cemlyn on 10 Nov.

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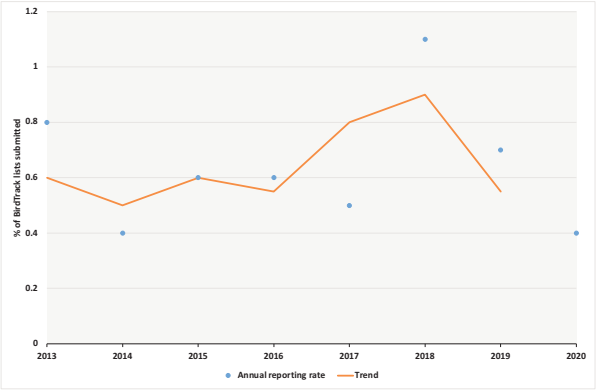
**BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla* PINC Y MYNYDD

*Winter visitor in variable numbers; seldom numerous and usually locally distributed. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 233 | 118 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

The influx in winter 2018/19 is evident in the BirdTrack reporting rate, which returned to more typical levels in 2020, but the January count in MEIRIONNYDD is notable, and there was evidence of passage in late March/early April. There were, however, relatively few in the autumn.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Brambling in Wales 2013-20**




Counts >=10 in first winter period: GWENT: 40 at Mescoed Mawr on 5 April; CEREDIGION: 300 at Hafod Estate on 19 March; MONTGOMERY: 15 on west side of Lake Vyrnwy on 2 Feb.; MEIRIONNYDD: 500+ roosted at Moel Hafodwen, Coed y Brenin, on 5 Jan., matching the previous county record in Jan. 1976; CAERNARFON: 15 at Beddgelert on 19 Jan.

Counts >=10 in second winter period: CEREDIGION: 15 at Llyn Brianne on 5 Nov.; CAERNARFON: 12 on the Great Orme on 28 Oct.; recorded on Bardsey throughout Oct., max. 12 on 15th.

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**HAWFINCH** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* GYLFINBRAFF

*Localised and uncommon resident, principally in southeast Wales and Meirionnydd - RBBP: 441 pairs in 2019. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor from Norway. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 201 | 152 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

The county population estimates for GWENT and MEIRIONNYDD are encouraging, and have resulted in a significant increase in the Wales estimate by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (above). In the latter county at least, numbers may be increasing and the species expanding outside its core area. It is also interesting to note breeding season records in GOWER, CEREDIGION and CAERNARFON, as well as evidence of small movements in mid-Oct. in those same three counties, including one among Redwings that might perhaps point to a Norwegian origin. There were also several around the coast in mid-April.

Breeding season (mainly April to June): GWENT: county population estimated at 255-310 pairs;

E.GLAMORGAN: pair bred at Nolton churchyard, Bridgend; one at Merthyr Mawr on 21 April; two at Welsh St Donat's on 10 May; one at Coedcae-bach, near Cefn Mably Woods, on 24 May; two over Lisvane Res. on 11 June; one at Ynys Cynon, Cwmbach, on 11 June; GOWER: one in Llanmadoc on 29 May; CEREDIGION: one in a garden at Furnace on 31 May; MONTGOMERY: two in Ceinws on 1 April; female in a Machynlleth garden in late May and a different (ringed) bird here on 3 June; MEIRIONNYDD: county population estimated at a minimum 100-120 pairs, centred on Dolgellau and Mawddach valley, with small numbers around R.Dwyryd and Bala; one at Mallwyd on 4 June was the first record from the far south of the county; CAERNARFON: one near Penrhyn Bay on 10 May, two on 28th and three on 25 June.

First winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: regularly at Fforest Ganol, max. eight in Jan., six in Feb. and 15 in March; two at Coed-y-Wenallt on 1 Feb. and eight here on 20 March; one at Leckwith Woods on 6 Feb.; one at Wrinstone Brook, St Andrew's Major, on 2 Feb.; up to three at Ewenny Quarry on 6-8 March and two here on 14th; two at Rudry on 21 March; four at Lavernock Pt on 10 Nov.; PEMBROKE: female at St Nicholas on 18 April; MONTGOMERY: one at Llyn Coed-y-Dinas on 22 Jan. and 28 March, but no records from Powis Castle gardens; MEIRIONNYDD: nine at Maentwrog on 23 Jan.; present at Llanelltyd on 19 March; CAERNARFON: six at Llanbedr-y-cennin on 2 Feb., five here on 18th and 29th and seven on 20 March; one near Penrhyn Bay on 28 March; ANGLESEY: one at Wylfa Head on 10 April; DENBIGH: up to three in Llanrwst during 1-19 Jan.; 1-2 at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd from 8 Feb. to 13 March; one at Towyn on 20-21 April.

Second winter period: GWENT: nine at Gwern Ddu on 27 Aug. and 26 here on 22 Dec.; 1-2 at Slade Wood, St Arvans, Dingestow and St Pierre Lake; GOWER: heard over Glynneath (with Redwings) on 16 Oct.; CEREDIGION: one at Eglwysfach on 16 Oct.; one in Rhydfelin on 19 Oct.; one at Cwmystwyth on 25 Nov.; MEIRIONNYDD: four at Llanelltyd on 14 Oct.; CAERNARFON: one at Llanbedr-y-cennin on 19 Nov. and 16 Dec.; one at Caerhun on 13 Oct. and 14 Nov., three here on 22 Nov. and 6 Dec.; three at Bangor Mountain on 18 Oct.; one at Llandudno Junction on 15 Nov.; three at Llandudno on 30 Dec.

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**BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* COCH Y BERLLAN

*Fairly common resident in the lowlands, patchier in its distribution in the far west and scarce in the uplands (29,500 breeding territories). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2934 | 3397 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 13% | 16% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales had almost returned to its 1994 level, but 2018 and 2019 were poor years. That was also reflected in lists submitted to BirdTrack, for which the annual reporting rate bounced back to its second-highest total in 2020.

Counts >=10: GOWER: 10 ringed at High Pennard on 7 March; PEMBROKE: 13 at Teifi Marshes on 1 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: 14 at Caedelyn Farm, Llanedi, on 8 June; BRECON: 15 west over The Cwm on 21 Sept., and at least 20 at a ringing station here in mid-Oct.; 10 at Buckland Wood on 1 Oct.; 10 at Libanus on 28 Dec.; CAERNARFON: 12 at Bangor Mountain on 9 March, 17 here on 15 Oct., 16 on 17th and 14 on 7 Nov.; ANGLESEY: 10 at Penmon on 6 Dec.

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**COMMON ROSEFINCH** *Carpodacus erythrinus* LLINOS GOCH

*Scarce passage migrant from north/eastern Europe. WBRC: 161 previous records.*

GOWER: adult in a garden at Pant-y-Sais, Jersey Marine, on 13-14 June and for a few days previously, was the fifth county record; CAERNARFON: singing 1CY male on Bardsey on 4-7 June, another here on 12 June and a third, a singing 2CY male, on 14 June.

**GREENFINCH** *Chloris chloris* LLINOS WERDD

*Fairly common resident (38,000 breeding pairs), but has declined as a result of Trichomonosis disease. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2954 | 2989 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 13% | 14% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales had reached another new low in 2019, having fallen 89% since its 2004 peak, and by 71% since 1994. With no BBS in 2020, the only guide to trends comes from the BirdTrack reporting rate, which was at its highest since 2016, but the absence of large flocks is apparent: just eight flocks of >=40 Greenfinches were recorded, compared to 12 in 2015 and 21 in 2010. The largest flock counted in MEIRIONNYDD contained just seven birds.

Counts >=40: GOWER: *c*.40 at Crymlyn Burrows on 17 Oct.; CAERNARFON: max. monthly count in roost at Llandudno of 553 on 12 Jan., 100 on 24 Feb. and 283 on 29 Nov.; 40 at Foryd on 30 Jan.; 40+ at Caerhun on 26 Aug.; 56 over the Great Orme on 23 Oct.; FLINT: max. 80 in Gronant dunes on 10 Jan.; 44 at Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn, on 12 Oct.; FLINT: 50 at Connah's Quay NR on 6 Dec.

2019 E.GLAMORGAN: 50 at Ton Farm near Merthyr Mawr on 12 Aug.

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**TWITE** *Linaria flavirostris* LLINOS Y MYNYDD

*Rare breeding species, now restricted to a small part of Caernarfonshire. Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 134 | 87 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Breeding season: CAERNARFON: one in potential breeding habitat at Nant Ffrancon on 10 and 14 July.

Non-breeding: CAERNARFON: three over Bardsey on 3 April; one at Glan-y-môr Elias on 14 Nov.; ANGLESEY: Red Wharf Bay on 15 Dec.; DENBIGH: three on Llety Ifan, south of Llangollen, on 17 Oct.; FLINT: max. 30 at Connah's Quay (24 Jan.) during first winter period and 35 during second winter period (26 Nov.), but 80 at Walwen Marsh, Bagillt, on 11 Dec. and 75 here on 27th; one at RSPB Pt of Ayr on 23 Jan.; one at Gronant dunes on 5 Feb.

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**LINNET** *Linaria cannabina* LLINOS

*Fairly common resident (47,500 breeding territories) and passage migrant. Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 3466 | 2781 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 15% | 13% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales declined for four successive years to 2019 (and by 47% since 2000). That trend is reflected in the BirdTrack reporting rate, which reached a new low in 2020, although doubtless influenced by fewer visits to coastal heath and *ffridd* habitats because of travel restrictions. Passage was again notable in South and West Wales in early autumn.

Breeding surveys: PEMBROKE: 50 pairs on Ramsey (*cf*. 21 in 2019); CAERNARFON: 22 pairs on Bardsey fledged 39 young.

Counts >=100 in first winter period: GWENT: >100 near Osbaston throughout Jan.-March (max. 280 on 17 Jan.); GOWER: max. 200-300 feeding on sunflowers at The Viel, Rhossili, on 25 Jan.; PEMBROKE: 150 at Marloes on 4 Jan.; 400 at Castlemartin Corse on 4 Jan.; BRECON: 160 in grazed root crop at Pentwyn Uchaf, Merthyr Cynog, on 25 Feb.

Counts >=100 in second winter period: GWENT: 250 at Collister on 26 Aug.; 180 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Sept. and 145 on 22nd; 213 at Undy foreshore on 25 Sept., increasing to max. 312 on 19 Oct.; E.GLAMORGAN: max. 150 at Lavernock Pt in Sept., 500 on 7 Oct., 230 on 14th, 300 on 16th, 420 on 19th and 150 on 22nd; 150 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 26 Aug.; 100 at Kenfig NNR on 30 Aug.; 400 at Cwm Mawr on 13 Sept.; GOWER: *c.*100 on recently cut hayfield at Pennard on 12 July; *c.*100 at Rhossili/Fall Bay on 31 July; *c.*100 at Margam Burrows on 13 Sept.; 100 at Whiteford on 18 Sept.; CARMARTHEN: 500 over Kidwelly Marsh on 21 Aug. and 150 here on 7 Oct.; 150 at Penclacwydd in Aug.; PEMBROKE: 200 at Ynys Barri on 17 Sept.; 300 at Strumble Head on 8 Sept.; 600 at Pencarnan Camp, St Davids, on 17-27 Sept.; 176 at Pwllcaerog on 26 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 313 at Gwbert on 16 Aug.; BRECON: 400 on stubble at Llanhamlach on 4 Sept.; 130 at Cathedine Fawr on 20 Sept.; 100+ at Pennorth during Oct.-Dec., max. 300 on 9 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: 100 at Artro est. on 25 Sept.; CAERNARFON: highest counts on Bardsey were 101 on 18 Aug., 256 on 23rd, 241 on 21 Sept., 284 on 3 Oct., 348 on 4th and 173 on 6th; FLINT: 132 on Clwyd est. on 12 July and 118 here on 27 Aug.; 200 at Shotwick on 27 Oct.; *c.*100 at RSPB Pt of Ayr on 10 Nov.

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**COMMON REDPOLL** *Acanthis flammea* LLINOS BENGOCH

*Scarce visitor from sub-Arctic regions, most frequently in northwest Wales in April/May. WBRC: 260 previous records.*

GOWER: two at Aberpergwm on 28-30 March, the third county record.

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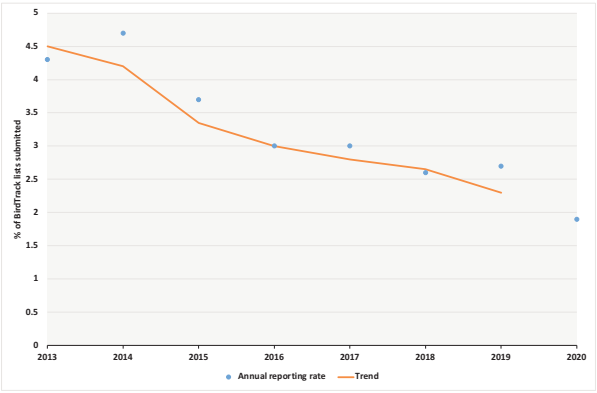
**LESSER REDPOLL** *Acanthis cabaret* LLINOS BENGOCH FECHAN

*Uncommon breeding species, passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 700 | 508 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 3% | 2% |

Numbers recorded by the Breeding Bird Survey in Wales had fallen in the few years before 2019. The BirdTrack reporting rate has also fallen over this period, and although the 2020 rate will have been influenced by travel restrictions, it does not look greatly out of line with the trend.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Lesser Redpoll in Wales 2013-20**




Counts >=15 in first winter period: GWENT: 15 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 29 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Rudry Common on 1 Jan.; 25 at Garwnant on 4 Jan.; 50 at Dare Valley CP on 31 Jan. and 30 here on 10 March; 30 at Tirfounder Fields on 7 March; GOWER: 15 at Dyffryn Cellwen on 1 Jan.; 35-50 at Morfa Glas, Glynneath, in late March; DENBIGH: 20 at Bwlch Pen Barras on 12 Jan.; 15 at World's End on 12 March.

Counts >=15 in second winter period: E.GLAMORGAN: 25 at Lavernock Pt on 20 Sept. and 20 here on 15-16 Oct.; 25 at Treorchy on 3 Dec.; 35 at Tirfounder Fields on 5 Dec. and 26 here on 9th; GOWER: max. 50 at Aberpercwm on 22 Oct.;

CAERNARFON: 31 on Bardsey on 21 Sept. and 125 on 3 Oct., including a single flock of 100 in sacrificial crops; DENBIGH: 42 at Lleweni watermeadows on 13 Oct.; 26 at Pentrefelin, Glan Conwy, on 29 Nov.; 40+ in central Wrexham on 30 Dec.; FLINT: *c.*15 at Coed Talon, Llanfynydd, on 12 Nov.

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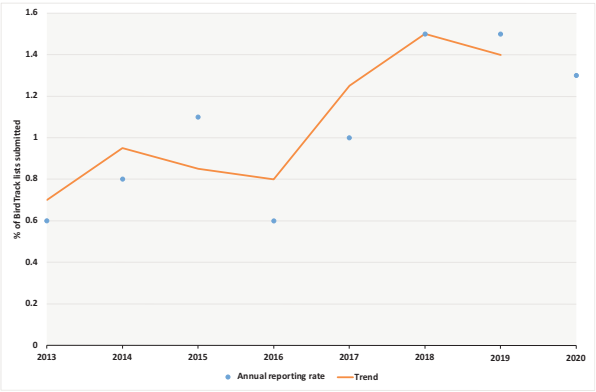
**COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra* GYLFINGROES

*Locally fairly common breeding species although numbers fluctuate. Occasional irruptive immigrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 424 | 393 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 2% | 1% |

The BirdTrack reporting rate in Wales has been broadly in line with the UK Breeding Bird Survey trend during 2013-19, and although it fell back slightly during 2020, this was by less than might have been expected given restricted travel.

**BirdTrack reporting rate: Common Crossbill in Wales 2013-20**




Breeding: GWENT: bred at Wentwood and Aberbeeg; E.GLAMORGAN: family groups at Ystradffernol Forest/Mynydd Beili-glas on 20 March and Blaencaerau on 3 April; probably bred at Garwnant and near Llwyn-on Res. and possibly at five other sites; GOWER: four pairs in Upper Neath valley; bred at Rhyslyn Mynydd Dinas; CEREDIGION: confirmed at Black Covert, Allt Y Crib (Talybont), Blaenmelindwr, Pendam Forest, Cwm Einion, Nant y Moch, Llyn Syfydrin and Cross Inn forest; BRECON: possibly bred at Coed y Rhaiadr; ANGLESEY: at least two birds in Newborough Forest on 11 Jan. and 23 Feb.; DENBIGH: bred at Craig Bron Banog and Llantysilio.

Counts >=25: GWENT: 26 at Aberbeeg on 29 May and 32 here on 10 June; 36 at Grwyne Fawr, Mynydd Du, on 19 July; E.GLAMORGAN: 142 at Lavernock Pt on 24 June, 210 here on 25th and 42 on 26th, 34 here on 18 Sept., 44 on 19th, 55 on 20th and 25 on 17 Oct.; GOWER: 25-30 at Morfa Glas, Glynneath, on 28-30 March; 50 in the Upper Neath valley on 10 June; PEMBROKE: 60 at Coed Glynaeron on 18 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 42 at Ceinws on 31 March; DENBIGH: 27 at Bwlch Pen Barras on 12 Jan.; *c.*25 at Nilig, Clocaenog Forest, on 8 Feb.; 30 at Llyn Brenig on 27 Feb.; FLINT: 60 over Gwernymynydd on 22 June.

Migration: CAERNARFON: singing male on Bardsey on 9 June.

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**GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis* NICO

*Fairly common resident and summer visitor (180,000 breeding pairs) and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 8994 | 9120 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 40% | 44% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index reached a new high in Wales in 2019, more than double its 1994 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate has shown similar growth since

2013, with a return to 2017 levels in 2020, numbers perhaps having been knocked by the severe weather in late winter 2018.

Flocks >=100 in spring: CAERNARFON: 114 on Bardsey on 18 April and 122 on 19th.

Autumn passage was evident in southeast Wales on 18-21 September and 14-22 October. The count at Lavernock Pt on 16 Oct. was a Welsh record day-total.

Counts >=100 at Lavernock Pt, E.GLAMORGAN, all movements to the northeast.

| *Month* | *September* | | | | | | *October* | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Date* | *14* | *15* | *17* | *18* | *19* | *20* | *7* | *14* | *15* | *16* | *17* | *18* | *19* | *22* |
| Lavernock Pt | 150 | 115 | 150 | 620 | 350 | 250 | 200 | 2310 | 1730 | 3200 | 1700 | 840 | 1600 | 400 |

Post-breeding flocks >=100 or on autumn passage: GWENT: 200 at Llanishen on 30 Aug.; 150 at Peterstone Wentlooge on 20 Sept.; 500 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 21 Sept.; 1402 at Undy foreshore on 19 Oct. and 320 here on 20th; E.GLAMORGAN: 100 at Cwm Cadlan on 20 Sept.; 100 at Cosmeston Lakes CP on 3 Oct.; GOWER: 100+ at Margam Burrows on 13 Sept.; *c*.200 feeding on Evening Primroses at Baglan Bay on 3 Oct.; 200+ at The Viel, Rhossili, on 16 Oct.; 100+ at Tollgate Park, Margam, on 19 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 103 on Skokholm on 20 Sept. and 180 here on 3 Oct. ; BRECON: 150 at Tŷ Mawr, Llangasty, on 15 Aug. increasing to 300 here on 27th, and 400+ on 7 Oct.; CAERNARFON: 200 in Marl Hall Woods on 7 Sept.; 130 at Congl y Cae, Llangwnnadl, on 15 Sept. and 120 here on 18th; passage over Bardsey peaked at 273 on 3 Oct. and 275 on 4th; DENBIGH: *c*.130 outside Berwyn Prison, Wrexham, on 25 Aug.; FLINT: 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 20 Sept.; *c*.100 at RSPB Pt of Ayr on 2 Oct.; 200 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9 Oct.

Ringing: BRECON: a 2CY female killed by a cat at Sennybridge in July had been ringed in Poole, Dorset, in Jan.

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**SISKIN** *Spinus spinus* PILA GWYRDD

*Fairly common but local breeding species (58,500 pairs), winter visitor and passage migrant. Wales Green listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **No of BirdTrack records** | **2160** | **2045** |
| **% of BirdTrack lists** | **9%** | **9%** |

2019 saw the Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales reach a record high, 84% above its 1994 baseline. By contrast, the BirdTrack reporting rate has been falling since 2013.

Counts >=60 at Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff), GWENT, and Lavernock Pt, E.GLAMORGAN, in autumn.

| *Month* | *Aug.* | *September* | | | | | | | | | | | | *October* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Date* | *31* | *4* | *5* | *7* | *10* | *14* | *15* | *17* | *18* | *19* | *20* | *21* | *22* | *3* | *5* |
| Newport Wetlands | | 345 | 461 | 393 | | 76 | | | | | | 354 | 136 | | 65 |
| Lavernock Pt | 110 | | | | 100 | 150 | 230 | 1020 | 1010 | 460 | 340 | | | 80 | |

Other counts >=60: GWENT: 120 over Osbaston on 5 March; 70 at Slade Wood on 9 Sept.; 504 at Sudbrook on 17 Sept.; 60 at Llanwenarth on 30 Dec.; E.GLAMORGAN: 60 in Treharris on 15 Feb.; 419 at Merthyr Mawr on 10 Sept.; 370 at Temple Bay, Dunraven, on 14 Sept., 200 here on 17th and 90 on 21st; 100 at Bedwas Riverside Park on 7 Nov.; 75 at Parc Penallta on 31 Dec.; CARMARTHEN: 100 at Brechfa Forest on 15 March; BRECON: 70 at The Cwm on 2 Jan.; MONTGOMERY: 70 at Ceinws on 24 Aug.; MEIRIONNYDD: regular counts at Cwm Cywarch, Dinas Mawddwy, peaked at 60 in May; CAERNARFON: 67 on Bardsey on 9 Sept.; 69 on Great Orme on 28 Oct.; DENBIGH: 100+ at Llyn Brenig on 27 Feb. and 80 here on 17 March; 150 over Glyn Ceiriog on 28 Feb.

**LAPLAND BUNTING** *Calcarius lapponicus* BRAS Y GOGLEDD

*Uncommon but regular passage migrant, especially in autumn, and occasional winter resident. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 82 | 47 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

Spring: CAERNARFON: female on Bardsey from 21 April to 2 May.

65 during autumn/second winter period (*cf*. approx. 53 in 2019). Singles unless stated: PEMBROKE: Abercastle on 7 Oct.; Skokholm on 18-19 and 22 Sept., 13 and 26 Oct. and 22 Nov.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 13 and 24 Sept.; two at Ynyslas on 21-22 Oct.; CAERNARFON: Great Orme on 10 and 12 Sept., three here on 17th, two on 14 Oct., five on 18 Oct. and one on 20 Nov., and one nearby at Llandudno West Shore on 21 Nov.; Uwchmynydd on 27 Sept. and two here on 11 Oct.; Bangor on 18 and 25 Oct. and two here on 7 Nov.; Dwyfor est. on 4 Oct.; two on Bardsey on 5 Sept., two on 9th, one on 14th, three on 19-20th, three on 2 and 14 Oct., and one on 9th; ANGLESEY: Hen Borth on 5 Sept.; Carmel Head on 12 Sept.; South Stack on 17-18 Sept.; two at Hen Borth on 30 Sept. and 1 Oct., one here on 18 Oct., nine on 21st and one at Cemlyn on 22nd; Breakwater CP, Holyhead, on 20 Oct.; Pt Lynas on 26 Oct.; Mynachdy on 10 Nov.; Cemlyn on 11 Nov.; FLINT: Gronant dunes on 17 Sept.

**Lapland Bunting (Jonathan Bull)**

**SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis* BRAS YR EIRA

*Uncommon but regular autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Most are considered to be of the subspecies insulae, which breed in Iceland. Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 167 | 275 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

First winter period, single birds unless stated: CEREDIGION: Aberystwyth on 22 Jan.; CAERNARFON: 12+ above Llanberis on 15 March; ANGLESEY: Holyhead Bay on 7 April; DENBIGH: two at Kinmel Bay from 2019 to 18 Feb. and one here on 8 March; Esclusham Mountain on 25 Feb.

Second winter period, single birds unless stated: GOWER: Foel Fynyddau on 5 and 8 Nov.; Salthouse Pt on 13 Nov.; CARMARTHEN: Cefn Sidan from 1 Nov. into 2021; PEMBROKE: Fishguard outer breakwater on 30 Oct.; Skokholm on 4, 6 and 9-11 Nov.; Strumble Head on 24 Nov.; Pwll Deri on 27 Nov.; Llanrhian on 6 Dec.; CEREDIGION: Llanrhystud on 23 Oct., 27 and 30 Nov. and 6 Dec., and two here on 11 Dec.; CAERNARFON: three on Great Orme on 18 Oct.; and singles regularly during 5-30 Nov.; Deganwy on 22 and 28 Nov. probably same as at North Shore, Llandudno, on 24th; Morfa Madryn from 20 Nov. to 6 Dec.; Wig on 28 Nov.; four at Llanfairfechan on 27 Dec.; two in the Carneddau on 31 Dec.; ANGLESEY: Soldier's Pt on 23 Oct., two here on 2 Nov., four on 21st, five on 22nd, four on 29th and three on 30 Dec.; Pt Lynas on 26 Oct.; South Stack on 6 Nov. and 26 Dec.; three at Cemlyn on 25 Nov.; three on Llanddona beach on 15 Dec.; DENBIGH: two at Kinmel Bay from 11 Nov. to 13 Dec.; Moel y faen on 11 and 13 Nov.; FLINT: two at Pt of Ayr on 14 Nov.

***P.n. nivalis***
*Rare winter visitor, originating in Fennoscandia. It probably occurs more frequently than records suggest, but is rarely documented. WBRC: five previous records, involving 10 individuals.*
ANGLESEY: Red Wharf Bay on 21 Jan.-17 Feb.

2012 PEMBROKE: one ringed on outer breakwater, Fishguard, on 11 March.

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**CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra* BRAS YR YD
*Rare visitor and former breeder. WBRC: two records since 2010.*

The sequence of sightings in DENBIGH was the first in Wales since a bird in E.GLAMORGAN, in Sept. 2014, and was a welcome surprise, especially the possibility of nesting, which has not been recorded in Wales since 2007.

DENBIGH: one of a pair of adults carrying food south of Bettisfield, perched on the boundary line with Shropshire; it is not known in which county the birds nested. Corn Bunting appears not to have bred in adjacent parts of Shropshire in recent years (Smith 2019); 17 at Bettisfield on 10 Dec., increasing to 19 on 11th and 16 on 16th. The last record from this site, one of the last to hold breeding Corn Bunting in Wales, was in 2006.

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**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella* BRAS MELYN
*Declining but patchily-distributed and locally fairly common resident (31,500 breeding territories). Wales Red listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 249 | 195 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | <1% | <1% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales hit a new low in 2019, 64% lower than its 1994 baseline. The BirdTrack reporting rate has shown a similar trend, occurring on just 0.7% of lists in 2020, less than half the ratio in 2013-15.

Breeding pairs or territorial males, under-recorded in many counties: GWENT: present at eight sites during April-July; E.GLAMORGAN: breeding confirmed at Pant Norton and south of Moulton; territories at four sites and singing males at a further five; GOWER: two pairs bred at Butterslade/Middleton/Lewes Castle and present at 10 other sites; CARMARTHEN: pair at Llyn Brianne on 31 July; PEMBROKE: two at Cyffern; two at Hasguard Cross; three on Plumstone Mountain; several at Templeton; CEREDIGION: one above Abermagwr on 1 May; one at Ystumtuen on 16 July; BRECON: four near to a Glastir birdseed crop near Pennorth; eight males at Bolged, near Brecon; 19 males around Mynydd Aberyscir on 13-14 June; 1-6 singing males at 10 other sites; MONTGOMERY: small population at Llanfechan throughout the year;

MEIRIONNYDD: near Llyn Caer Euni in June; CAERNARFON: multiple birds at Mynydd Rhiw, Penarfynydd, Trwn Talfarach, Rhiw, Plas yn Rhiw and Bardsey; ANGLESEY: bred near Llandyffrydog; two at Mynydd Bodafon in March-Aug.; singing male on Holyhead Mountain on 11 April; nine males and a female at Brynteg in April and 14 here on 22 July; DENBIGH: present at 15 sites in May-Aug.; FLINT: present at seven sites in May-Aug.

Counts >=10: E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Slade Farm & woods, Dunraven, on 8 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 12 at Folkeston Farm, Nolton, on 22 April; BRECON: 45 in a field near Pennorth in Jan., 60 in Feb. and 30 in March; 30 in a birdcover crop in Merthyr Cynog on 25 Feb.; 12 at Gwndnwal Farm, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, in early April; MEIRIONNYDD: 14 beneath feeders in a garden at Ynys Crossing until 10 March and 10 here on 29 Dec.

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**ORTOLAN BUNTING** *Emberiza hortulana* BRAS GERDDI

*Scarce migrant from southern Europe. WBRC: 182 previous records.*

CAERNARFON: one at Pwll y Cyw, Aberdaron, on 17 Sept.

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**LITTLE BUNTING** *Emberiza pusilla* BRAS BYCHAN

*Rare visitor from northeast Europe and Arctic Russia. WBRC: 33 previous records.*

PEMBROKE: one ringed on Skokholm on 29 Sept.; one at Abereiddy on 14-15 Dec.

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**REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus* BRAS CYRS

*Fairly common resident, mainly in damp habitats (17,500 breeding territories). Wales Amber listed.*

| | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|
| No of BirdTrack records | 2421 | 1545 |
| % of BirdTrack lists | 10% | 7% |

The Breeding Bird Survey index for Wales had been sliding during the 2010s, but in 2019 remained 34% above its 1994 level. The BirdTrack reporting rate has shown a similar decline, although the 2020 rate is substantially below previous years, quite probably owing to its scarcity in residential areas that comprised an increased proportion of BirdTrack lists this year.

Counts >=20: GWENT: 20 at Newport Wetlands Reserve on 19 Jan.; E.GLAMORGAN: 20 at Slade Farm & woods, Dunraven, on 8 Dec.; PEMBROKE: 33 at Pwllcaerog on 26 Nov.; CEREDIGION: 21 at Cors Caron on 6 Feb.; BRECON: 30-40 in a Glastir birdcrop at Pennorth until mid-March and 100+ recorded here on 22 Nov.; 20 at a birdcover crop at Merthyr Cynog on 25 Feb.; 60 at a covercrop in Llangorse on 6 Dec.; MONTGOMERY: 20 at Dolydd Hafren on 11 Dec.; MEIRIONNYDD: regular in a garden at Ynys Crossing, max. 20+ on 27 Dec.

Ringing: PEMBROKE/CEREDIGION: a bird ringed at Teifi Marshes in Aug. 2011 was recaught at the same site in June, for the third successive year, at eight years and 10 months old, a year less than the oldest in the British & Irish ringing scheme.

**ESCAPES AND REINTRODUCTIONS**

The following species (single birds unless stated) were reported to county recorders and BirdTrack.

**RED-BREASTED GOOSE** *Branta ruficollis* GWYDD FRONGOCH
Category E. CARMARTHEN: Penclacwydd on 21 Jan.

**BAR-HEADED GOOSE** *Anser indicus* GWYDD BENRHESOG
Category E. GWENT: near Osbaston from 21 April to 5 May; PEMBROKE: Teifi est. on 29 Aug. and 16 Oct.; Nevern est. from 3 Sept. to 18 Oct.

**SNOW GOOSE** *Anser caerulescens* GWYDD YR EIRA
Category E. ANGLESEY: Llyn Coron on 1-20 Jan.; RSPB Valley Wetlands from 9 March to 16 April, and then again on 21 Oct., 2 Nov. and 7 Dec.; FLINT: RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 5 Aug. and 18 Dec.
Also, a Snow Goose x Barnacle Goose hybrid was at Llyn Penrhyn, ANGLESEY, on 16 April.

**SWAN GOOSE** *Anser cygnoides* ALARCH WYDD
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: Roath Park Lake on 9 Feb.; four at R.Taff, Butetown (Cardiff) on 19 Oct. and 28 Dec.

**BLACK SWAN** *Cygnus atratus* ALARCH DDU
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: Knap Lake, Barry, on 13 and 24 Jan.; Ogmore est. on 5-8 Feb.; two at East Aberthaw from 3 April to 14 May and one here on 13 and 20 June, and 18 Aug.; R.Taff, Butetown (Cardiff) on 19 Oct.; Cardiff Bay on 10 and 17 July, 23 Aug. and 22 Sept.; PEMBROKE: Pembroke Dock on 5-10 Jan.; CAERNARFON: Aber Ogwen on several dates between 31 Aug. and 30 Sept. and two on 29th, probably same as one in DENBIGH at RSPB Conwy on 2-24 Aug.; FLINT: Shotwick on 15 March (and at nearby RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands until 5 May).

**RUDDY SHELDUCK** *Tadorna ferruginea* HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN
Category E. DENBIGH: Lleweni watermeadows on 10 March presumed same as in FLINT, on Clwyd est. from 4 Jan. to 9 April; RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 13 Jan. and from 21 Aug. to 25 Nov.

**MUSCOVY DUCK** *Cairina moschata* HWYADEN FWSG
Category E. GWENT: Cwmcelyn Pond on 3 Feb.; two at New Inn on 11 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN: two at Taf Bargoed Lakes throughout the year except in Nov./Dec. when only one present; Clydach Vale Lake on 18 Oct., 22 and 29 Nov.; Knap Lake, Barry, on 12 Nov.; GOWER: Fendrod Lake on four dates in Jan.; BRECON: male on the canal in Brecon on 8 Jan.; RADNOR: Llandrindod Wells Lake Park on 2 Sept.; CAERNARFON: two at a pond on Sychnant Pass on 4 June; FLINT: 11 just south of Caerwys on 23 July.

**WOOD DUCK** *Aix sponsa* HWYADEN GRIBOG Y COED
Category E. GWENT: Ebbw Vale Festival Park on 6 Feb.; E.GLAMORGAN:three at Hensol Lake on 3 March, two on 7 June, a female on 25 June and two on 23 Aug.; female at St-y-Nyll Pond on 5 June.

**HELMETED GUINEAFOWL** *Numida meleagris* IAR GINI HELMOG
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: at Flemingston on five dates, max. 15 on 17 March; two at St Mary's Well Bay from 4 Feb. to 31 March and one here until 6 April; FLINT: Plas Bellin Hall on 26 Jan.

**INDIAN PEAFOWL** *Pavo cristatus* PAUN
Category E. The proven breeding in Breconshire is the first in the *Welsh Bird Report* since 2007.
E.GLAMORGAN: Pitcot Pond, St Brides Major, on 7 June; BRECON: male at Talyllyn from April and a female with a half-size juvenile on 9 Aug.; CAERNARFON: at least four wandered around the deserted streets of

Bangor during lockdown periods; Cors Bodgynydd on 12 Aug.; four at Bangor Mountain on 26 Oct. and 28 Nov.; DENBIGH: ten at Faenol Fawr, Bodelwyddan, in Feb.

**DIAMOND DOVE** *Geopelia cuneata* COLOMEN DDEIMWNT
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: Penrhiwfer on 20 May.

**GOLDEN EAGLE** *Aquila chrysaetos* ERYR EURAID
Category E. BRECON: the escaped female, nicknamed 'Eddie' that had been present in southern mid-Wales since escaping from the Maesteg area in 2011, was found dead at Abergwesyn on 6 Aug. A post mortem by the Welsh Government Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme found that she had died of Aspergillosis and old age, but tissue analysis also showed that her body contained two embedded shotgun pellets and traces of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticide (**https://raptorpersecutionscotland.wordpress.com/2020/12/14/post-mortem-reveals-welsh-golden-eagle-had-suffered-gunshot-injury/**).

**WHITE-TAILED EAGLE** *Haliaeetus albicilla* ERYR MOR
Category R1. E.GLAMORGAN: immature over Ystrad Mynach and then Rudry on 8 April was a tagged bird translocated from Scotland to the Isle of Wight in 2019. We expect such records to make regular appearances in the *Welsh Bird Report* in the next few years.

**HARRIS'S HAWK** *Parabuteo unicinctus* GWALCH HARRIS
Category E. E.GLAMORGAN: Cosmeston Lakes CP on 10 Sept.; two in Roath Park Lake area from 21 Oct. to at least 17 Dec.

**SAKER FALCON** *Falco cherrug* HEBOG SAKER
Category E. GOWER: one, or a hybrid, was in the Neath Valley (undated).

**GYR FALCON** *Falco rusticolus* HEBOG Y GOGLEDD
Category E. BRECON: a Gyr hybrid lost by a falconer in the Brecon Beacons was seen beneath a hedge at Llanddew on 29 Jan. plucking a Redwing, but it was not recaptured at this location.

**PIED CROW** *Corvus albus* BRAN FRAITH
Category E. PEMBROKE: one at Pencarnan Camp, St Davids, on 7 April.

**RING-NECKED PARAKEET** *Psittacula krameri* PARACIT TORCHOG
Category E, as there is no evidence that the population in Wales is self-sustaining nor that records in Wales are from a self-sustaining population elsewhere. This situation may well change, and so birders and county recorders are encouraged to report all sightings (see Facey and Vafidis 2020). There were 36 records on BirdTrack in 2020, compared to 27 in 2019 and 10 in 2018.

GWENT: two at Blackwood Park on 23 Feb., one at Blackwood on 22 April and at nearby Penmaen on 7 July, then up to six in the park on many dates from 10 Aug. to 26 Dec., although breeding not confirmed; Newport Wetlands Reserve (Goldcliff) on 10 Nov.; E.GLAMORGAN: Abercynon on 17 Sept.; Hamadryad Park, Cardiff Bay, on 31 Dec.; GOWER: Fendrod Lake on various dates between 1 Jan. and 8 April and 1 Oct. and 4 Dec., at nearby Llansamlet Recycling Centre on 29 Aug. and at Pluck Lake on 18 Oct.; BRECON: Builth Wells from 1 Aug., joined by a second from 6th, and at least one remained until 30 Sept.; RADNOR: Llanelwedd in Sept. and Oct.; ANGLESEY: Penmynydd on 26 June; Benllech on 23 Aug.; DENBIGH: Denbigh on 3 July; Llanddulas on 25 Dec.; FLINT: Llanasa on 13 March; three at Gwaenysgor on 2 April.

**RED-BILLED LEIOTHRIX** *Leiothrix lutea* MESIA PICOCH
Category E. Also known as Pekin Robin or Pekin Nightingale, a softbill commonly kept in aviaries in the

UK, a probable male was at a birdtable in BRECON on 27 Oct. and remained in the area until 11 Nov. It is the species' first appearance in the *Welsh Bird Report* and there are no records from Wales in the NBN Atlas, but it is already established in 10 European countries, including an estimated 5000 birds in France, 1500-2500 pairs in Italy, up to 2000 birds in northeast Spain and 500-700 pairs in central Portugal (Pereira *et al*. 2020).

**ZEBRA FINCH** *Taeniopygia guttata* PILA GWELLT RHESOG
Category E. MONTGOMERY: Moel-y-Garth Wood on 28 March.

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**Ringing and nest recordng report for Wales 2020**

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***Ringing trends***

The restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced access to the countryside in 2020, greatly affected the amount of bird monitoring conducted in Britain and Ireland, and Wales was no exception. Restrictions started to ease in late spring, so some projects were able to continue but by this time quite a few of the Dipper, Blue and Great Tit chicks (pulli), for example, had fledged or were about to fledge. This resulted in a 27% drop in the number of pulli ringed and a 68% reduction in nest records submitted compared to 2019. Thankfully, the numbers of fully grown birds ringed were able to 'catch up' to around a typical number, only 9% lower than 2019. Even with this reduced effort in ringing and nest recording, volunteers were still able to break two British and Irish longevity records, one for Little Tern and one for House Sparrow.

In line with the whole of Britain and Ireland, Blue Tit was the most ringed bird in Wales in 2020. This rarely changes, but looking at the differences between years can provide greater insight into annual variations per species. The numbers of Pied Flycatcher ringing records declined by 5,143 between 2019 and 2020 and Blue Tit (-2,288) records were also reduced, mainly due to the reduction in the number of pulli ringed. In contrast, Goldfinch (+1612) and House Sparrow (+1257) were ringed in larger numbers in 2020, driven primarily by fully grown birds being ringed, possibly due to the increase in ringing in gardens during the pandemic.

Numbers of full grown birds and pulli ringed, 2000-20.

| Year | Full grown | Pulli | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 | 53,014 | 5,929 | 58,943 |
| 2019 | 58,223 | 22,357 | 80,579 |
| 2018 | 61,147 | 20,428 | 81,575 |
| 2017 | 58,824 | 20,296 | 79,120 |
| 2016 | 57,687 | 18,931 | 76,618 |
| 2015 | 53,189 | 21,200 | 74,389 |
| 2014 | 54,532 | 19,637 | 74,169 |
| 2013 | 42,070 | 15,815 | 57,885 |
| 2012 | 34,209 | 15,548 | 49,757 |
| 2011 | 43,502 | 16,830 | 60,332 |
| 2010 | 44,563 | 18,421 | 62,984 |
| 2009 | 32,486 | 14,932 | 47,418 |
| 2008 | 27,892 | 15,394 | 43,286 |
| 2007 | 26,254 | 16,269 | 42,523 |
| 2006 | 23,416 | 17,491 | 40,907 |
| 2005 | 27,793 | 16,596 | 44,389 |
| 2004 | 27,158 | 16,361 | 43,519 |
| 2003 | 24,737 | 14,405 | 39,142 |
| 2002 | 25,442 | 13,761 | 39,203 |
| 2001 | 16,727 | 8,298 | 25,025 |
| 2000 | 14,588 | 9,462 | 24,050 |
| **Totals** | **807,453** | **338,361** | **1,145,813** |

**Dipper (Andy Davis)**

Even with a reduction of 127 birds between 2019 and 2020, Manx Shearwater (485) was the second most numerous species ringed as pulli in 2020 after Pied Flycatcher (1806). Blue Tit (358), Barn Owl (350) and Black-headed Gull (332) were the others in the top five of pulli ringed, though the totals are greatly reduced compared to recent years.

It is hard to differentiate between changes in bird demography and ringer effort, as is evident in the table below where effort was greatly reduced in 2020. Two BTO schemes try to standardise 'effort', and produce information on adult survival, productivity and abundance. These are the Constant Effort Site (CES) and Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS). In 2020, the number of registered CES in Wales dropped from 10 to eight due to lack of ringers and site security; and only four of those were able to operate in 2020. Ideally seven more CES sites are needed for the BTO to produce Welsh specific population trends, so if Welsh ringers know of sites which catch 200-300 birds a season without providing food or using lures, the BTO would like to hear of them.

Wales does very well for the number of RAS studies compared to the number of ringers. There were 25 RAS studies active in 2020 (23 in 2019), but only half (13) were able to collect data in 2020. The active projects were Pied Flycatcher (six), Dipper (three), Siskin (two), Reed Warbler (two), Wheatear (two) and single studies of Common Tern, Kittiwake, House Sparrow, Linnet, Shag, Guillemot, Reed Bunting, Arctic Tern, Hawfinch and Razorbill. There is still a lot of opportunity for more RAS projects, where recaptures of birds ringed in previous RAS seasons should be around 30-50 individual birds. Most species are suitable for a RAS but Barn Owl, Dipper, Mute Swan, Starling, Swallow, Pied Flycatcher, House and Tree Sparrow fit particularly well, but the BTO has fewer projects than would be expected.

Numbers of birds ringed by species.

| Ringing totals | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | Year total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Species | FG | Pulli | Total | FG | Pulli | Total | difference |
| Brent Goose | 28 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -28 |
| Canada Goose | 180 | 45 | 225 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -225 |
| Greylag Goose | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -9 |
| Mute Swan | 13 | 57 | 70 | 11 | 64 | 75 | 5 |
| Whooper Swan | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| Shelduck | 17 | 0 | 17 | 9 | 0 | 9 | -8 |
| Mandarin Duck | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -3 |
| Wigeon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| Mallard | 19 | 11 | 30 | 16 | 0 | 16 | -14 |
| Pintail | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Teal | 12 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 0 | 4 | -8 |
| Tufted Duck | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| Goosander | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| Red Grouse | 5 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 4 | -1 |
| Storm Petrel | 1049 | 23 | 1072 | 964 | 14 | 978 | -94 |
| Leach's Petrel | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| Fulmar | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -5 |
| Manx Shearwater | 3434 | 612 | 4046 | 2172 | 485 | 2657 | -1389 |
| Little Grebe | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -7 |
| Grey Heron | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 3 | -4 |
| Little Egret | 0 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -8 |
| Gannet | 35 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -35 |
| Shag | 9 | 415 | 424 | 0 | 93 | 93 | -331 |
| Cormorant | 0 | 272 | 272 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -272 |
| Osprey | 0 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 12 | 12 | 1 |
| Honey-buzzard | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Sparrowhawk | 32 | 7 | 39 | 15 | 7 | 22 | -17 |
| Goshawk | 0 | 38 | 38 | 0 | 6 | 6 | -32 |
| Hen Harrier | 0 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 7 | 7 | -5 |
| Red Kite | 1 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 | -4 |
| Buzzard | 7 | 5 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 4 | -8 |
| Water Rail | 15 | 0 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 1 | -14 |
| Moorhen | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 5 |
| Coot | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Oystercatcher | 348 | 18 | 366 | 53 | 11 | 64 | -302 |
| Lapwing | 22 | 8 | 30 | 7 | 1 | 8 | -22 |
| Golden Plover | 157 | 0 | 157 | 105 | 0 | 105 | -52 |
| Grey Plover | 4 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3 | -1 |
| Ringed Plover | 279 | 13 | 292 | 165 | 13 | 178 | -114 |
| Little Ringed Plover | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -2 |
| Dotterel | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Whimbrel | 86 | 0 | 86 | 8 | 0 | 8 | -78 |
| Curlew | 125 | 3 | 128 | 149 | 0 | 149 | 21 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 7 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Black-tailed Godwit | 4 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 3 |
| Turnstone | 200 | 0 | 200 | 145 | 0 | 145 | -55 |

| Ringing totals | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | Year total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Species | FG | Pulli | Total | FG | Pulli | Total | difference |
| Knot | 122 | 0 | 122 | 118 | 0 | 118 | -4 |
| Curlew Sandpiper | 6 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 4 | -2 |
| Sanderling | 37 | 0 | 37 | 40 | 0 | 40 | 3 |
| Dunlin | 3214 | 0 | 3214 | 1580 | 0 | 1580 | -1634 |
| Purple Sandpiper | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Little Stint | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| Woodcock | 684 | 0 | 684 | 471 | 0 | 471 | -213 |
| Jack Snipe | 48 | 0 | 48 | 37 | 0 | 37 | -11 |
| Snipe | 155 | 0 | 155 | 147 | 0 | 147 | -8 |
| Common Sandpiper | 21 | 5 | 26 | 7 | 2 | 9 | -17 |
| Green Sandpiper | 8 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 6 | -2 |
| Redshank | 399 | 0 | 399 | 525 | 0 | 525 | 126 |
| Greenshank | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| Kittiwake | 24 | 18 | 42 | 6 | 8 | 14 | -28 |
| Black-headed Gull | 64 | 285 | 349 | 2 | 332 | 334 | -15 |
| Great Black-backed Gull | 18 | 160 | 178 | 1 | 56 | 57 | -121 |
| Herring Gull | 54 | 591 | 645 | 35 | 124 | 159 | -486 |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 215 | 277 | 492 | 3 | 212 | 215 | -277 |
| Sandwich Tern | 40 | 124 | 164 | 48 | 0 | 48 | -116 |
| Little Tern | 45 | 274 | 319 | 3 | 62 | 65 | -254 |
| Common Tern | 11 | 588 | 599 | 21 | 146 | 167 | -432 |
| Arctic Tern | 9 | 642 | 651 | 2 | 0 | 2 | -649 |
| Great Skua | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Guillemot | 107 | 964 | 1071 | 4 | 151 | 155 | -916 |
| Razorbill | 67 | 566 | 633 | 9 | 94 | 103 | -530 |
| Black Guillemot | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -3 |
| Puffin | 68 | 57 | 125 | 9 | 14 | 23 | -102 |
| Stock Dove | 14 | 29 | 43 | 3 | 23 | 26 | -17 |
| Woodpigeon | 26 | 11 | 37 | 55 | 2 | 57 | 20 |
| Turtle Dove | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| Collared Dove | 11 | 0 | 11 | 44 | 0 | 44 | 33 |
| Cuckoo | 9 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 2 | -7 |
| Barn Owl | 27 | 347 | 374 | 26 | 350 | 376 | 2 |
| Tawny Owl | 17 | 24 | 41 | 13 | 2 | 15 | -26 |
| Little Owl | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| Long-eared Owl | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Short-eared Owl | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Nightjar | 84 | 45 | 129 | 52 | 41 | 93 | -36 |
| Swift | 7 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -8 |
| Kingfisher | 30 | 0 | 30 | 38 | 0 | 38 | 8 |
| European Bee-eater | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Wryneck | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | 152 | 0 | 152 | 229 | 0 | 229 | 77 |
| Green Woodpecker | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Kestrel | 1 | 52 | 53 | 4 | 40 | 44 | -9 |
| Merlin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Hobby | 0 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 11 | 11 | -1 |

| Ringing totals | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | Year total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Species | FG | Pulli | Total | FG | Pulli | Total | difference |
| Peregrine | 0 | 16 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 5 | -11 |
| Jay | 44 | 0 | 44 | 31 | 0 | 31 | -13 |
| Magpie | 9 | 0 | 9 | 36 | 0 | 36 | 27 |
| Chough | 6 | 189 | 195 | 21 | 80 | 101 | -94 |
| Jackdaw | 50 | 122 | 172 | 111 | 34 | 145 | -27 |
| Rook | 58 | 7 | 65 | 11 | 0 | 11 | -54 |
| Carrion Crow | 3 | 21 | 24 | 7 | 2 | 9 | -15 |
| Raven | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -4 |
| Coal Tit | 537 | 80 | 617 | 977 | 9 | 986 | 369 |
| Marsh Tit | 30 | 46 | 76 | 29 | 0 | 29 | -47 |
| Willow Tit | 58 | 27 | 85 | 16 | 9 | 25 | -60 |
| Blue Tit | 5504 | 3380 | 8884 | 6238 | 358 | 6596 | -2288 |
| Great Tit | 2141 | 2073 | 4214 | 2911 | 311 | 3222 | -992 |
| Skylark | 68 | 2 | 70 | 85 | 0 | 85 | 15 |
| Sand Martin | 284 | 10 | 294 | 452 | 43 | 495 | 201 |
| Swallow | 2447 | 682 | 3129 | 1425 | 154 | 1579 | -1550 |
| House Martin | 129 | 14 | 143 | 29 | 5 | 34 | -109 |
| Cetti's Warbler | 111 | 2 | 113 | 80 | 1 | 81 | -32 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 756 | 7 | 763 | 696 | 0 | 696 | -67 |
| Willow Warbler | 1649 | 22 | 1671 | 1619 | 6 | 1625 | -46 |
| Chiffchaff | 2541 | 4 | 2545 | 1887 | 9 | 1896 | -649 |
| Wood Warbler | 8 | 92 | 100 | 5 | 12 | 17 | -83 |
| Yellow-browed Warbler | 6 | 0 | 6 | 15 | 0 | 15 | 9 |
| Greenish Warbler | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Sedge Warbler | 1468 | 1 | 1469 | 1146 | 0 | 1146 | -323 |
| Aquatic Warbler | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| Reed Warbler | 1359 | 22 | 1381 | 805 | 1 | 806 | -575 |
| Marsh Warbler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Melodious Warbler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Icterine Warbler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 49 | 0 | 49 | 31 | 1 | 32 | -17 |
| Blackcap | 2600 | 23 | 2623 | 2010 | 5 | 2015 | -608 |
| Garden Warbler | 148 | 4 | 152 | 92 | 10 | 102 | -50 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 39 | 0 | 38 | 38 | 0 | 38 | 0 |
| Whitethroat | 388 | 10 | 398 | 268 | 0 | 268 | -130 |
| Western Orphean Warbler | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| Subalpine Warbler | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Firecrest | 15 | 0 | 15 | 19 | 0 | 19 | 4 |
| Goldcrest | 1698 | 0 | 1698 | 1205 | 0 | 1205 | -493 |
| Wren | 1045 | 91 | 1136 | 873 | 12 | 885 | -251 |
| Nuthatch | 149 | 272 | 421 | 224 | 47 | 271 | -150 |
| Treecreeper | 96 | 13 | 109 | 138 | 11 | 149 | 40 |
| Starling | 569 | 28 | 597 | 1168 | 18 | 1186 | 589 |
| Ring Ouzel | 3 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 2 | -5 |
| Blackbird | 999 | 140 | 1139 | 1280 | 84 | 1364 | 225 |
| Fieldfare | 173 | 0 | 173 | 142 | 0 | 142 | -31 |
| Redwing | 2888 | 0 | 2888 | 1623 | 0 | 1623 | -1265 |

| Ringing totals | 2019 | | | 2020 | | | Year total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Species | FG | Pulli | Total | FG | Pulli | Total | difference |
| Song Thrush | 298 | 92 | 390 | 323 | 24 | 347 | -43 |
| Mistle Thrush | 5 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | 76 | 36 | 112 | 41 | 36 | 77 | -35 |
| Robin | 1242 | 90 | 1332 | 1318 | 45 | 1363 | 31 |
| Bluethroat | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Pied Flycatcher | 584 | 6470 | 7054 | 105 | 1806 | 1911 | -5143 |
| Red-breasted Flycatcher | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -2 |
| Black Redstart | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Redstart | 68 | 406 | 474 | 33 | 131 | 164 | -310 |
| Whinchat | 6 | 132 | 138 | 2 | 0 | 2 | -136 |
| Stonechat | 88 | 16 | 104 | 123 | 0 | 123 | 19 |
| Isabelline Wheatear | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| Wheatear | 136 | 24 | 160 | 31 | 0 | 31 | -129 |
| Dipper | 81 | 587 | 668 | 118 | 17 | 135 | -533 |
| House Sparrow | 598 | 170 | 768 | 1874 | 151 | 2025 | 1257 |
| Tree Sparrow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| Dunnock | 959 | 30 | 989 | 1187 | 19 | 1206 | 217 |
| Yellow Wagtail | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Grey Wagtail | 39 | 120 | 159 | 114 | 6 | 120 | -39 |
| Pied Wagtail | 150 | 59 | 209 | 135 | 15 | 150 | -59 |
| (White Wagtail) | 37 | 0 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -37 |
| Meadow Pipit | 1138 | 20 | 1158 | 1056 | 8 | 1064 | -94 |
| Tree Pipit | 36 | 3 | 39 | 16 | 12 | 28 | -11 |
| Rock Pipit | 58 | 1 | 59 | 42 | 0 | 42 | -17 |
| Chaffinch | 1782 | 15 | 1797 | 2226 | 11 | 2237 | 440 |
| Brambling | 376 | 0 | 376 | 24 | 0 | 24 | -352 |
| Hawfinch | 222 | 0 | 222 | 34 | 0 | 34 | -188 |
| Bullfinch | 410 | 7 | 417 | 394 | 9 | 403 | -14 |
| Common Rosefinch | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Greenfinch | 695 | 0 | 695 | 941 | 1 | 942 | 247 |
| Twite | 12 | 0 | 12 | 14 | 0 | 14 | 2 |
| Linnet | 262 | 5 | 267 | 114 | 0 | 114 | -153 |
| Lesser Redpoll | 663 | 0 | 663 | 330 | 3 | 333 | -330 |
| Common Redpoll | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Redpoll (Common/Lesser) | 54 | 0 | 54 | 21 | 0 | 21 | -33 |
| Common Crossbill | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -2 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 |
| Goldfinch | 2778 | 5 | 2783 | 4389 | 6 | 4395 | 1612 |
| Siskin | 2725 | 1 | 2726 | 2371 | 1 | 2372 | -354 |
| Yellowhammer | 63 | 0 | 63 | 85 | 0 | 85 | 22 |
| Little Bunting | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Reed Bunting | 518 | 1 | 519 | 322 | 4 | 326 | -193 |
| Lapland Bunting | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| **TOTALS** | **58,223** | **22,357** | **80,579** | **53,014** | **5,929** | **58,943** | **-21,636** |

The table shows the number of birds ringed and not those that have been recaptured or identified by a colour ring, as this can significantly affect the totals. The ringing totals above are derived from the BTO

database and similar numbers can be seen on the online Ringing Report: **www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports**

***2020 selected recoveries***

Below is a small selection of recoveries that stand out from the 22,013 re-encounters (recaptures, resightings or birds found dead) in 2020. The reports of note involve long distances travelled, unusual species or longevity. Ringers are most likely to find a ringed bird, however reports from non-ringers are also very important, particularly in areas less covered by ringers. Rings and colour rings can also be read on live birds by members of the public, helping to 'fill in the gap' of the bird's life history. To report a ringed bird, go to **www.ring.ac**; you will receive details of the bird including where and when the bird was ringed.

Codes used in the recoveries:

| | |
|---|---|
| M | Male |
| F | Female |
| Pull. | Ringed as a pullus (nestling) |
| 2 | Fully-grown, year of hatching unknown |
| 3(3J) | Hatched during the current calendar year (in juvenile plumage) |
| 4 | Hatched before the current calendar year, exact year unknown |
| 5 | Hatched during the previous calendar year |
| 6 | Hatched before the previous calendar year, exact year unknown |
| 7 | Hatched two years ago |
| 8 | At least three years, exact year unknown |

Shelduck (GN81532)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 03/02/2016 | Newton Farm, near Cardiff, East Glamorgan (6M) | | |
| 24/02/2017 | Martin Mere, Lancashire | | |
| 21/02/2018 | Martin Mere, Lancashire | | |
| 15/02/2019 | Martin Mere, Lancashire | | |
| 24/01/2020 | Martin Mere, Lancashire | | |
| | 237km N | 3y 11m 21d | Ring read in field |

Storm Petrel (P13267)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20/07/2020 | Burhou Island, Alderney, **Channel Islands 49°43'N 2°15'W** (6) | | |
| 22/07/2020 | Bae Y Rhigol, Bardsey, Caernarfonshire | | |
| | 383km NNW | 0y 0m 2d | Caught by ringer |

Little Egret (GR47679)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26/06/2012 | Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, Caernarfonshire (Pull.) | | |
| 08/01/2014 | Playa Blanca, Isla de Lanzarote, **Spain 28°51'N 13°51'W** | | |
| 15/03/2020 | Playa Blanca, Isla de Lanzarote, **Spain 28°51'N 13°51'W** | | |
| | 2825km SSW | 7y 8m 19d | Colour ring sighting |

Little Egret (GV02652)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20/06/2020 | Verulamium, St Albans, Hertfordshire (Pull.) | | |
| 23/07/2020 | Verulamium Lake, Hertfordshire | | |
| 07/08/2020 | Criccieth, Caernarfonshire | | |
| | 295km WNW | 0y 1m 18d | Colour ring sighting |

Cormorant (5282040)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 25/06/2017 | Puffin Island, Anglesey (Pull.) | | |
| 20/10/2010 | Happisburgh, Norfolk | | |
| 30/08/2018 | Happisburgh, Norfolk | | |
| 17/10/2019 | Happisburgh, Norfolk | | |
| 29/07/2020 | Eccles on Sea, Norfolk | | |
| | 377km E | 3y 1m 4d | Colour ring sighting |

Cormorant (5282553)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22/06/2019 | Puffin Island, Anglesey (Pull.) | | |
| 06/03/2000 | Afonwen, Mold, Flintshire | | |
| | 51km ESE | 0y 8m 4d | Fresh dead. Taken By Wild or Feral Animal (Otter) |

Goshawk (MA41218)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 06/06/2018 | Site Confidential, East Glamorgan (Pull. F) | | |
| 20/08/2020 | Maypole, Gwent | | |
| | 43km NE | 2y 2m 14d | Found dead, shot |

Marsh Harrier (FJ23399)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 07/06/2020 | Thorpe Marshes, Norfolk (Pull. M) | | |
| 30/10/2020 | near Felixstowe, Suffolk | | |
| 19/11/2020 | Castlemartin Corse, Pembrokeshire | | |
| 30/12/2020 | Marloes Mere, Pembrokeshire | | |
| | 474km W | 0y 6m 23d | Wing tag sighting |

Lapwing (DT24702)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 18/01/2018 | Gwenlas, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Radnorshire (5M) | | |
| 29/12/2020 | Waalenburg, Texel, **The Netherlands 53°4'N 4°48'E** | | |
| | 551km E | 2y 11m 11d | Colour ring sighting. |

Whimbrel (EY08356)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26/04/2012 | Llansantffraed, Llanon, Ceredigion (6) | | |
| 22/05/2016 | Langanesdý, Djúpidalur, Hvolsvollur, Rangárvallasýsla, **Iceland 63°46'N 20°16'W** | | |
| 13/06/2017 | Langanesdý, Djúpidalur, Hvolsvollur, Rangárvallasýsla, **Iceland 63°46'N 20°16'W** | | |
| 25/06/2020 | Langanesdý, Djúpidalur, Hvolsvollur, Rangárvallasýsla, **Iceland 63°46'N 20°16'W** | | |
| | 1581km NNW | 8y 1m 30d | Colour ring sighting. 5th record to Iceland. |

Curlew (FA95802)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14/12/2015 | Saltmarsh south of West Usk lighthouse, Gwent (4) | | |
| 15/01/2016 | Beach north of West Usk lighthouse, Gwent | | |
| 19/04/2018 | Trzyrzecze, Podlaskie, **Poland 53°31'N 23°4'E** | | |
| 24/03/2019 | Trzyrzecze, Podlaskie, **Poland 53°31'N 23°4'E** | | |
| 03/10/2019 | Beach north of West Usk lighthouse, Gwent | | |
| 26/04/2020 | Trzyrzecze, Gm. Jedwabne, Podlaskie, **Poland 53°31'N 23°4'E** | | |
| | 1767km ENE | 4y 4m 12d | Colour ring sighting. 6th record to Poland |

Kittiwake (6407985)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 25/06/2005 | Nidingen, Hallands Lan, Halland, **Sweden 57°18'N 11°54'E** (Pull.) | | |
| 21/08/2020 | Rhos Pt, Caernarfonshire | | |
| | 1081km WSW | 15y 1m 27d | Colour ring sighting. 6th from Sweden |

Sandwich Tern (DE67380)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15/06/2020 | Inch Island Lake, Speenoge, Donegal, **Republic of Ireland** (Pull.) | | |
| 05/08/2020 | River Clwyd, Rhyl, Flintshire | | |
| | 321km SE | 0y 1m 21d | Colour ring sighting |

Little Tern (NV38220)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 08/07/1993 | near Gronant, Flintshire (Pull.) | | |
| 21/06/2018 | near Gronant, Flintshire | | |
| 14/07/2020 | near Gronant, Flintshire | | |
| 15/07/2020 | near Gronant, Flintshire | | |
| | 0km - | 27y 0m 7d | Colour ring sighting. New British and Irish longevity record. |

Little Tern (E34281)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12/09/2018 | Salinas Do Samouco, Setúbal, **Portugal 38°43'N 8°58'W** (3) | | |
| 16/07/2020 | near Gronant, Flintshire | | |
| | 1680km NNE | 1y 10m 4d | Colour ring sighting. 2 record from Portugal |

Woodpigeon (FB30973)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 15/09/2019 | Great Livermere, Suffolk (3) | | |
| 16/07/2020 | Nant, Bardsey Island, Caernarfonshire | | |
| | 378km W | 0y 10m 1d | Caught by ringer |

Peregrine (GC74008)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 31/05/2008 | Site Confidential, near Ruthin, Denbighshire (Pull.) | | |
| 04/08/2020 | Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire | | |
| | 122km SE | 12y 2m 4d | Fresh dead, hit by train |

Chough (ET91759)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14/06/1999 | Site Confidential, Holy Island, Anglesey (Pull. F) | | |
| 13/02/2020 | near South Stack, Holyhead, Anglesey | | |
| | 5km - | 20y 7m 30d | Caught by ringer |

Skylark (TW23484)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 07/10/2020 | Fron Top, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Radnorshire (2) | | |
| 15/10/2020 | Stone, Bideford, Devon | | |
| | 174km SSW | 0y 0m 8d | Found dead |

Willow Warbler (LLK654)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10-04-2020 | Cristin, Bardsey, Caernarfonshire (4) | | |
| 16-05-2020 | Muttonhall, Peebles, Scottish Borders | | |
| | 326km NNE | 0y 1m 6d | Freshly dead |

Redwing (RY15135)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01/11/2018 | Deerlands, Keeston, Pembrokeshire (4) | | |
| 18/07/2020 | Mosfellsbaer, Teigur Vid Reykjaveg, Kjósarsýsla, **Iceland 64°10'N 21°42'W** | | |
| | 1675km NNW | 1y 8m 17d | Freshly dead by cat |

Wheatear (AZC5768)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16/07/2019 | Skokholm, Pembrokeshire (3J) | | |
| 04/04/2020 | Banc D'arguin, Gironde, **France 44°34'N 1°14'W** | | |
| | 846km SSE | 0y 8m 19d | Colour ring sighting |
| 16/04/2020 | Skokholm, Pembrokeshire | | |
| | 0km - | 0y 9m 0d | Colour ring sighting |

Dipper (RL15093)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16/04/2012 | Llananno, Radnorshire (Pull. F) | | |
| 14/05/2017 | River Unk, Cefn Einion, Clun, Shropshire | | |
| 14/10/2017 | River Unk, Cefn Einion, Clun, Shropshire | | |
| 17/10/2018 | River Unk, Cefn Einion, Clun, Shropshire | | |
| 06/11/2019 | River Unk, Cefn Einion, Clun, Shropshire | | |
| 22/09/2020 | River Unk, Cefn Einion, Clun, Shropshire | | |
| | 23km ENE | 8y 5m 6d | Caught by ringer |

House Sparrow (TJ61050)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 02-08-2007 | Bedwas, East Glamorgan (4M) | | |
| 29-04-2020 | Bedwas: *c.* 51°34'N 3°11'W | | |
| | 0km - | 12y 8m 27d | Colour ring sighting. New British and Irish longevity record. |

Rock Pipit (2434316)

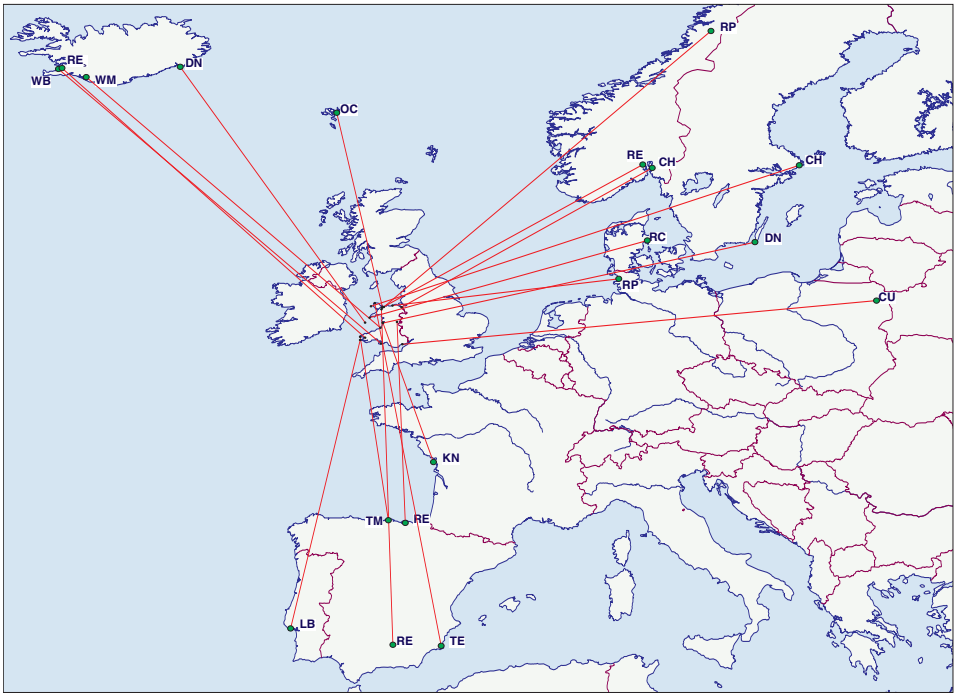
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26-08-2015 | Solfach, Bardsey, Caernarfonshire (4) | | |
| 25-03-2016 | South End, Bardsey, Caernarfonshire | | |
| 13-12-2020 | Kalo Vig, Ronde, Århus, **Denmark 56°16'N 10°28'E** | | |
| 19-12-2020 | Kalo Vig, Ronde, Århus, **Denmark 56°16'N 10°28'E** | | |
| | 1057km ENE | 5y 3m 23d | Colour ring sighting. 2nd record to Denmark |

Rock Pipit (2434321)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01-09-2015 | Solfach, Bardsey, Caernarfonshire (3) | | |
| 20-09-2020 | le Zwin, Knokke, West-Vlaanderen, **Belgium 51°21'N 3°21'E** | | |
| | 578km ESE | 5y 0m 19d | Colour ring sighting. 1st record to Belgium |

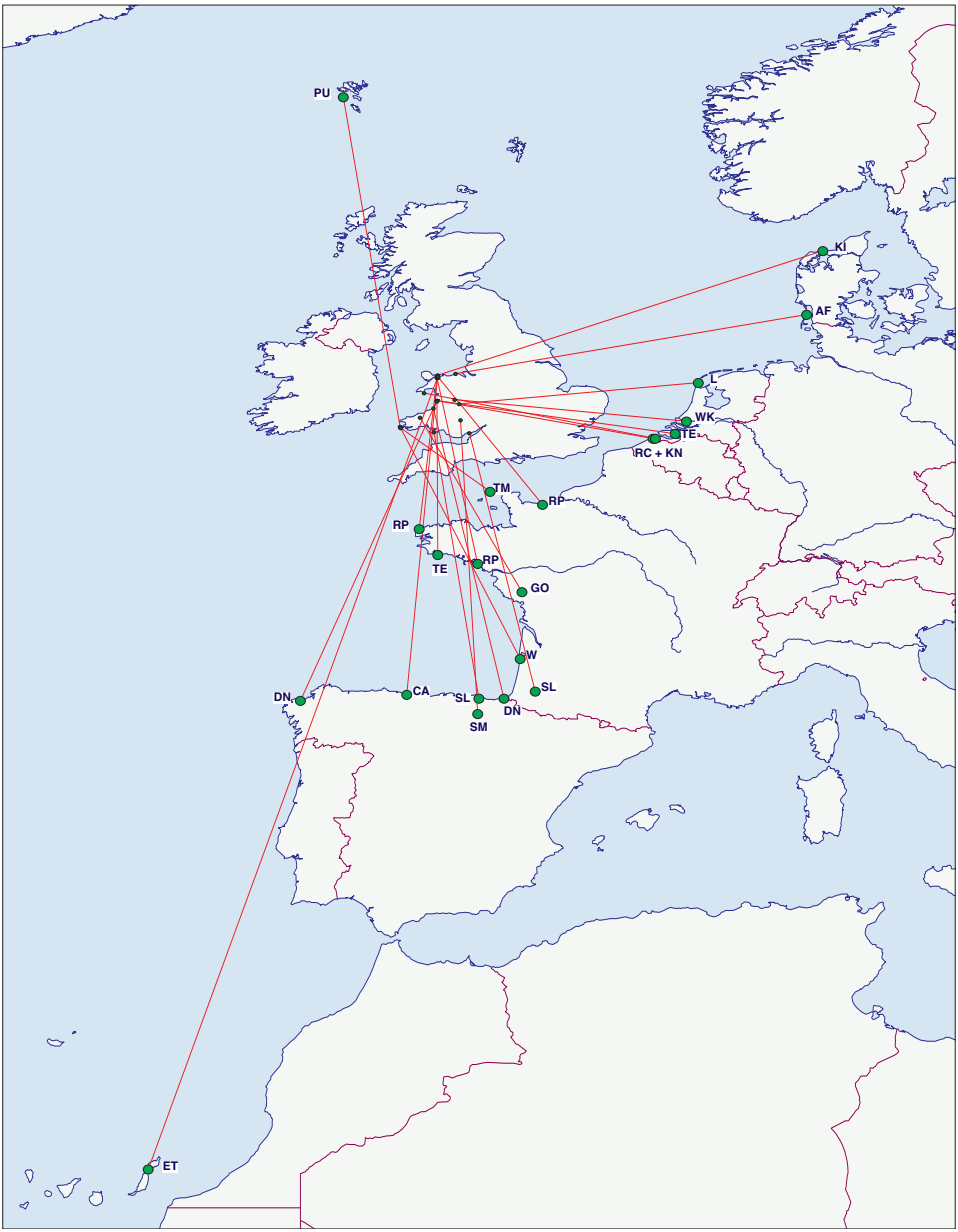
Reed Bunting (Y326050)

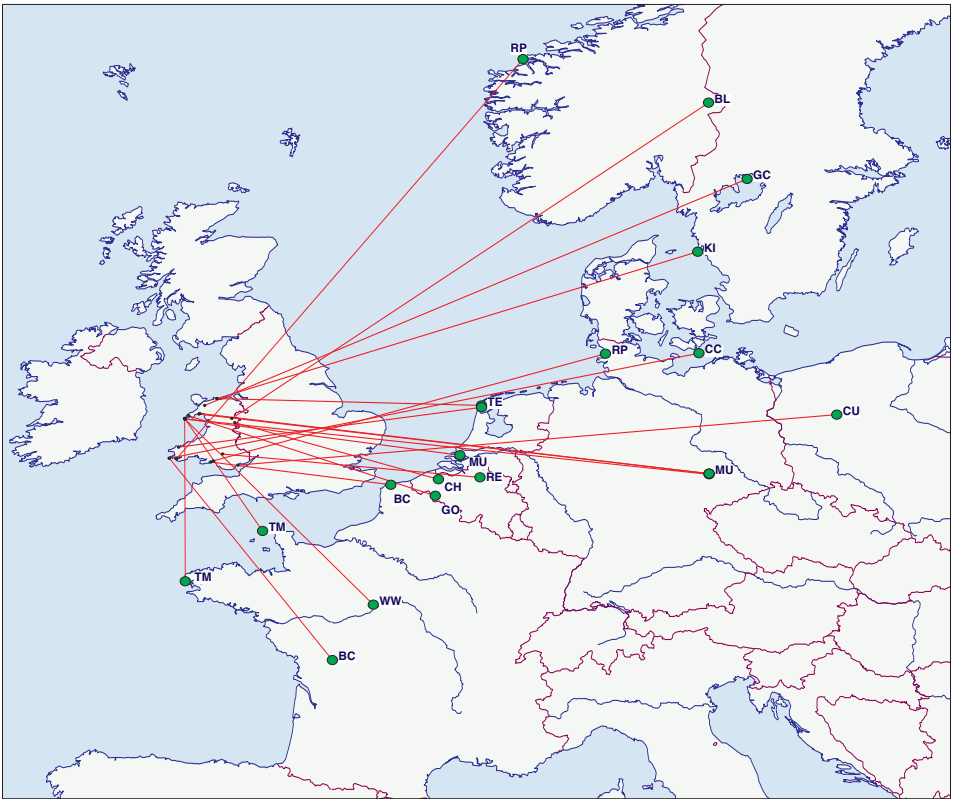
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11-08-2011 | Teifi Marshes, Pembrokeshire (3J) | | |
| 09-04-2018 | Teifi Marshes, Ceredigion | | |
| 19-01-2019 | Teifi Marshes, Ceredigion | | |
| 04-12-2019 | Teifi Marshes, Ceredigion | | |
| 15-06-2020 | Teifi Marshes, Ceredigion | | |
| | 0km - | 8y 10m 4d | Caught by ringer. Longevity record 9y 11m 18d set in 1978 |




Birds ringed in Wales that were found outside Britain and Ireland in 2020 (from Iceland, clockwise): White Wagtail (WB, Iceland), Redwing (RE, Iceland), Whimbrel (WM, Iceland), Dunlin (DN, Iceland), Oystercatcher (OC, Faeroes), Ringed Plover (RP, Norway), Redwing (RE, Norway), Chaffinch (CH, Norway), Chaffinch (CH, Sweden), Dunlin (DN, Sweden), Rock Pipit (RC, Denmark), Ringed Plover (RP, Denmark), Curlew (CU, Poland), Knot (KN, France), Redwing (RE, Spain), Sandwich Tern (TE, Spain), Redwing (RE, Spain), Storm Petrel (TM, Spain) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (LB, Portugal). Map produced in DMAP.

Map on p.213. Birds ringed in Wales that were found outside Britain and Ireland in 2020 (from the Faeroes then from Denmark, round the coast to Lanzarote): Puffin (PU, Faeroes), Kittiwake (KI, Denmark), Little Tern (AF, Denmark), Lapwing (L, The Netherlands), Woodcock (WK, The Netherlands), Sandwich Tern (TE, The Netherlands), Knot (KN, North Sea), Rock Pipit (RC, Belgium), Ringed Plover (RP, France), Storm Petrel (TM, Alderney), Ringed Plover (RP, France), SandwichTern (TE, France), Ringed Plover (RP, France), Goldfinch (GO, France), Wheatear (W, France), Swallow (SL, France), Dunlin (DN, Spain), Sand Martin (SM Spain), Swallow (SL, Spain), Cormorant (CA, Spain), Dunlin (DN, Spain), Little Egret (ET, Lanzarote, Spain). Map produced in DMAP.

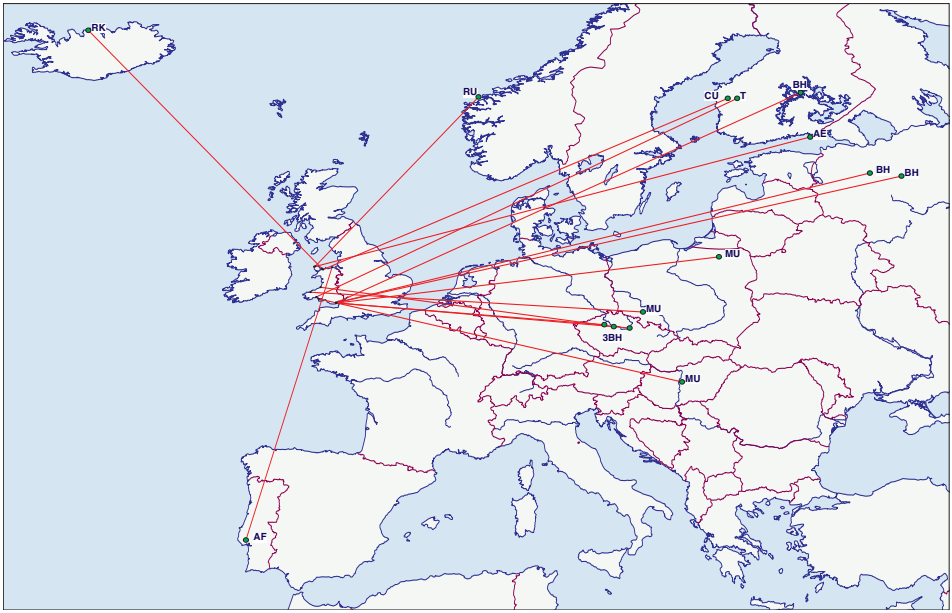

PU
KI
AF
L
WK
TE
RC + KN
TM
RP
RP
RP
TE
GO
W
DN
CA
SL
SL
DN
SM
ET



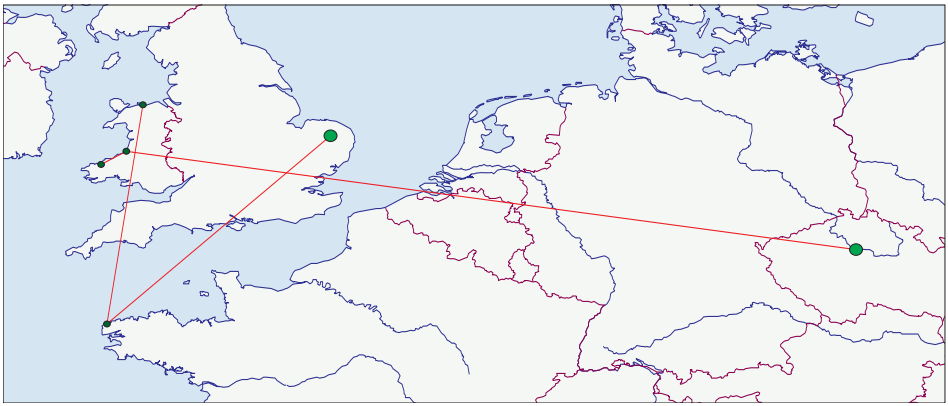

Birds ringed outside Britain and Ireland that were found in Wales in 2020 (from Norway, clockwise): Ringed Plover (RP, Norway), Brambling (BL, Norway), Goldcrest (GC, Sweden), Kittiwake (KI, Sweden), Chiffchaff (CC, Denmark), Ringed Plover (RP, Germany), Curlew (CU, Poland), Mediterranean Gull (MU, Germany), Sandwich Tern (TE, The Netherlands), Mediterranean Gull (MU, The Netherlands), Redwing (RE, Belgium), Chaffinch (CH, Belgium), Goldfinch (GO, Belgium), Willow Warbler (WW, France), Blackcap (BC, France), Storm Petrel (TM, Alderney and France). Map produced in DMAP.

It takes several years to learn to be a ringer, as the welfare of the bird is paramount and I am grateful to all the ringers who ringed and recaptured birds in Wales, including the list, below, of ringers who submitted over 100 records each (in order of the number of records from the greatest first):

Gower RG, Teifi RG, Mid Wales RG, Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory, Skokholm RG, Spence & Brenchley, Pembrokeshire RG, Mr PJ Belman, Llangorse RG, Merseyside RG, Mr M Haigh, Mr SG Dodd, SCAN RG, Ms A Stratford, Mr K Jones, Mr P Roughley, Facey and Vafidis, Goldcliff RG, Mr KA Capps, Mr DJ Stanyard, Dr M J Wood, Dr SJ Tyler, Severn Estuary Gull Group, Mr PA Jenks, Mr I Beggs, East Dales RG, Mr PR Jenkins, Mr D Anning, Mr DC Proll, Mr G Roberts, Kenfig RG, Mr KC Vaughton, Dr GE Austin, Dr FM Slater, Mr KJ Foster, Mr CJ Parry, Mr A Turner, Mr LJ Barber, Lt Col RC Dickey, RSPB RG, Mr A Lowe, Mr JMS Lewis, Mr AA Robinson, Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, Mr G Richardson, Mr JA Lawton Roberts and Mr WM Jones.




Birds ringed outside Britain and Ireland that were found in Wales in 2020 (from Iceland, clockwise): Redshank (RK, Iceland), Ruff (RU, Norway), Curlew (CU, Finland), Teal (T, Finland), Black-headed Gull (BH, Finland), Arctic Tern (AE, Finland), Black-headed Gull (BH x2, Russian Federation), Mediterranean Gull (MU x2, Poland), Black-headed Gull (BH x3, Czech Republic), Mediterranean Gull (MU, Hungary), Little Tern (AF, Portugal). Map produced in DMAP.



Movements of two Black-headed Gulls as tracked by colour-ring sightings. The large green dots are the ringing locations. Map produced in DMAP.

Number of nest records for Wales per species in 2020: 1835 nests of 80 species

| Species | No. records for 2019 | No. records for 2020 | Difference | Species | No. records for 2019 | No. records for 2020 | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mute Swan | 17 | 10 | -7 | Tawny Owl | 16 | 4 | -12 |
| Canada Goose | 4 | 0 | -4 | Long-eared Owl | 1 | 1 | |
| Mallard | 4 | 1 | -3 | Nightjar | 28 | 36 | 8 |
| Tufted Duck | 2 | 0 | -2 | Swift | 2 | 1 | -1 |
| Goosander | 0 | 3 | 3 | Great Sp. Woodpecker | 11 | 0 | -11 |
| Manx Shearwater | 0 | 263 | 263 | Lesser Sp.Woodpecker | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Storm Petrel | 24 | 12 | -12 | Chough | 60 | 32 | -28 |
| Shag | 3 | 8 | 5 | Magpie | 2 | 0 | -2 |
| Little Egret | 3 | 0 | -3 | Jay | 3 | 0 | -3 |
| Grey Heron | 3 | 0 | -3 | Jackdaw | 37 | 17 | -20 |
| Little Grebe | 2 | 0 | -2 | Rook | 3 | 0 | -3 |
| Great Crested Grebe | 3 | 1 | -2 | Carrion Crow | 8 | 3 | -5 |
| Honey-buzzard | 1 | 1 | 0 | Raven | 14 | 4 | -10 |
| Red Kite | 25 | 3 | -22 | Goldcrest | 1 | 0 | -1 |
| Hen Harrier | 5 | 2 | -3 | Firecrest | 2 | 1 | -1 |
| Goshawk | 39 | 3 | -36 | Blue Tit | 1423 | 207 | -1216 |
| Sparrowhawk | 2 | 3 | 1 | Great Tit | 806 | 160 | -646 |
| Buzzard | 9 | 4 | -5 | Coal Tit | 28 | 6 | -22 |
| Osprey | 6 | 5 | -1 | Willow Tit | 1 | 0 | -1 |
| Kestrel | 16 | 8 | -8 | Marsh Tit | 6 | 0 | -6 |
| Merlin | 0 | 1 | 1 | Skylark | 4 | 1 | -3 |
| Hobby | 5 | 5 | 0 | Sand Martin | 3 | 12 | 9 |
| Peregrine | 10 | 6 | -4 | Swallow | 206 | 60 | -146 |
| Moorhen | 6 | 1 | -5 | House Martin | 12 | 4 | -8 |
| Coot | 64 | 4 | -60 | Long-tailed Tit | 23 | 14 | -9 |
| Oystercatcher | 7 | 0 | -7 | Wood Warbler | 34 | 2 | -32 |
| Little Ringed Plover | 2 | 2 | 0 | Chiffchaff | 12 | 0 | -12 |
| Ringed Plover | 17 | 1 | -16 | Willow Warbler | 27 | 1 | -26 |
| Golden Plover | 1 | 0 | -1 | Blackcap | 20 | 1 | -19 |
| Lapwing | 1 | 8 | 7 | Garden Warbler | 6 | 3 | -3 |
| Curlew | 1 | 0 | -1 | Whitethroat | 1 | 0 | -1 |
| Common Sandpiper | 2 | 1 | -1 | Grasshopper Warbler | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Kittiwake | 141 | 76 | -65 | Reed Warbler | 3 | 0 | -3 |
| Black-headed Gull | 6 | 0 | -6 | Nuthatch | 103 | 11 | -92 |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 32 | 0 | -32 | Treecreeper | 10 | 3 | -7 |
| Herring Gull | 19 | 1 | -18 | Wren | 59 | 15 | -44 |
| Little Tern | 215 | 5 | -210 | Starling | 7 | 16 | 9 |
| Guillemot | 1 | 0 | -1 | Dipper | 209 | 15 | -194 |
| Razorbill | 1 | 0 | -1 | Ring Ouzel | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Stock Dove | 36 | 23 | -13 | Blackbird | 180 | 77 | -103 |
| Woodpigeon | 34 | 7 | -27 | Song Thrush | 93 | 37 | -56 |
| Collared Dove | 3 | 1 | -2 | Mistle Thrush | 13 | 2 | -11 |
| Barn Owl | 132 | 119 | -13 | Spotted Flycatcher | 14 | 7 | -7 |
| Little Owl | 2 | 2 | 0 | Robin | 48 | 22 | -26 |

| Species | No. records for 2019 | No. records for 2020 | Difference | Species | No. records for 2019 | No. records for 2020 | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pied Flycatcher | 917 | 309 | -608 | Tree Pipit | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| Redstart | 113 | 34 | -79 | Meadow Pipit | 32 | 7 | -25 |
| Whinchat | 7 | 0 | -7 | Chaffinch | 16 | 5 | -11 |
| Stonechat | 19 | 0 | -19 | Greenfinch | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Wheatear | 11 | 0 | -11 | Goldfinch | 9 | 2 | -7 |
| Dunnock | 29 | 9 | -20 | Linnet | 21 | 0 | -21 |
| House Sparrow | 95 | 79 | -16 | Lesser Redpoll | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Tree Sparrow | 1 | 0 | -1 | Bullfinch | 6 | 3 | -3 |
| Grey Wagtail | 46 | 5 | -41 | Yellowhammer | 3 | 0 | -3 |
| Pied Wagtail | 30 | 7 | -23 | Reed Bunting | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | **Total** | **5807** | **1837** | **-3970** |

The Nest Record Scheme records the progress of an individual bird's nesting attempt and provides vital information on how many fledglings are produced. Linked with environmental data, this can help identify the causes of population declines. Anyone can be a nest recorder and those who do, follow a code of conduct to make sure that recording this information minimises disturbance at nests. Being a nest recorder gives a greater understanding of where birds nest, their habits and behaviours.

It is good to see the number of nest records rising steadily over the years, however there was a dramatic drop in records submitted during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hoped that the number of records will increase again in 2021. Blue Tit is usually the most monitored species for many countries (e.g. 1330 records in Wales in 2019), however this was not the case this year as many broods had fledged by the time restrictions were relaxed. This made it possible for Pied Flycatcher (309) to reach the top spot, followed by Manx Shearwater (265).

Every nest record contributes to our knowledge of bird productivity, especially when found early in the nesting attempt, which also contributes more key information, principally first egg date, clutch size, number hatched and the nest outcome. It can be surprising to see that some common species are overlooked with regards to nest monitoring, for example in 2020, only seven Woodpigeons, one Mallard and one Canada Goose were recorded, and not a single Chiffchaff. This does mean that every single nest can make a large contribution.

Nest recording is easy to do, providing the NRS Code of Conduct is followed. However, to find some nests of some species takes practice and experience. We are grateful to all the nest recorders who have given up their time to study and monitor wild birds, particularly the following who submitted more than 10 records. In order of the number of records submitted with the highest first:

Mid Wales RG, Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory, John Lloyd, John Lawton Roberts, Paul Roughley, John Hyde, Lyndon Jeffery, Kelvin Jones, Fledgemore Nest Recording Group, Gwent Wildlife Trust Nest Box Project, Teifi RG, Adrienne Stratford, Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, David Owen, Paddy Jenks, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Brian Briggs, East Dales RG, Jim Clark, Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, Colin Everett, Steve Roberts, Havard and Sloan, Skokholm RG, Graham Brand, Jerry Lewis, Steph Tyler, Christopher Naylor, Pembrokeshire RG, Spence and Brenchley, Andrew King, Ian Tillotson and Claire Backshall.

More information can be found at **www.bto.org/nrs**

# The Welsh List: A Checklist of Birds of Wales (5th edition)

*R.I. Thorpe and A. Stratford*

*Bryn Llus, Rhostryfan, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL54 7PF*

**Summary**
This paper provides an update to the fourth edition of the Checklist of Birds of Wales (Thorpe and Stratford 2020). The list follows the BOURC British List (BOU 2021), which follows the International Ornithological Community (IOC) World Bird List version 11.2 (Gill *et al.* 2021). It also highlights changes in line with recent decisions by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC), the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). The full list is available on the Welsh Ornithological Society website: **https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/welsh-rare-birds-committee/**

**Introduction**
This is the fifth edition of the Checklist of Birds of Wales, hereafter referred to as the Welsh List, and has been prepared as a statement of the status of those species that are known to have occurred in Wales and the surrounding seas (up to 12 nautical miles). It incorporates all changes up to 31 December 2021, based on accepted records that occurred up to 31 December 2020.

**The Welsh List**
The Welsh List is the list of birds recorded in Wales, maintained by the Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS) through the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee (WBRC). Records have only been included after acceptance by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC) and/or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC).

The Welsh List (fifth edition) can be viewed on the WOS website. For each species, the list includes the English vernacular name, Welsh name and scientific name, and each is assigned to a Species Category and Species Status (see Thorpe and Stratford 2018 for full details).

As part of work on *The Birds of Wales* (Pritchard *et al.* 2021), and to follow the approach adopted by the BBRC (Holt *et al.* 2021), the status of rare and scarce species has been changed from Vagrant, Rare and Scarce to Extremely Rare (0-2 birds in past 30 years), Very Rare (3-9 birds in past 30 years), Rare (10-35 birds in past 30 years) and Scarce (more than 35 records , but less than 5 birds per year in last few years).

An additional Species Category has been added (see below) and one Species Category Removed (E*) with corresponding Species Status change.

- Category R1: Species released (in Wales, UK or Europe) for conservation purpose (e.g. re-introduction of Crane *Grus grus*).
- Category R2: Species released (in Wales or UK) for sporting/hunting purpose.

The Welsh List will be under regular review by the WBRC, with new species added, and potentially some removed following re-assessment. There remain a few issues to resolve over the subspecies identity of some species, but these do not impact on the assignment of species to categories.

**Taxonomy, English and Welsh names**
In maintaining the Welsh List, the WBRC relies on the IOC World Bird List for all decisions regarding taxonomic issues and on the BOURC for English names. Welsh names follow those used in *The Birds of Wales* (Pritchard *et al.* 2021).

**The Welsh List changes since the fourth edition (2020)**

A number of changes were made to the list order and scientific names to align with changes adopted by BOURC in 2021. The only change to species/subspecies list was:

**SOUTH POLAR SKUA** *Stercorarius maccormicki* SGIWEN PEGWN Y DE

A 2CY+ bird found exhausted in a car park in Aberavon, GOWER, was taken into care on 1 Feb. 2002 and released at Southgate, GOWER, on 6 Feb. 2002 (Holt *et al*. 2021).

This species is added to Category A of the Welsh List.

The number of species recorded in Wales (as of 31 Dec. 2021), within each category, is now as follows.

| Category | Total |
|---|---|
| A | 437 |
| B | 7 |
| C | 8 |
| **Total** | **452** |

**References**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*Welsh Bird Reports*. Welsh Ornithological Society.


**Acknowledgements**


The production of the list is not possible without the excellent work undertaken by the authors of the published references cited above and the work of the Welsh Birds Rarities Committee, British Birds Rarities Committee and local Bird Club Committees in assessing records of birds in Wales.

**County and other bird reports 2020**

This report is compiled from the county bird reports for 2020:

**Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report 2020**. Editor: John Wilson.
Available from the Editor, 122 Westbourne Road, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan CF64 3HH. Price: £9 + £1.99 for p&p. Cheques payable to Glamorgan Bird Club.

**Gower Birds - the birds of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot 2020**.
Available from Jeremy Douglas-Jones, 14 Alder Way, West Cross, Swansea SA3 5PD. Price: £7. Cheques payable to Gower Ornithological Society.

**Carmarthenshire Bird Report 2020**. Editor: Rob Hunt.
Available from Gary Harper, Maesteg, Capel Seion, Drefach, Llanelli SA14 7BS. Cheque for £7 (includes postage) payable to Carmarthenshire Bird Club.

**Pembrokeshire Bird Report 2020**. Editors: S.E. Berry and J. Green.
Available online at **https://pembsbirds.blogspot.com/p/the-annual-pembrokeshire-bird-reports.html**

**Ceredigion Bird Report 2020**. Editor: Arfon Williams.
Available online at **www.birdsin.wales**.

**Breconshire Bird Report 2020**. Editor: Andrew King.
Available from the Editor, Heddfan, Pennorth, Brecon LD3 7EX. £7 +£1.60 for p&p, and from The Hours Bookshop and Visit Brecon stores in Brecon Town, and Talgarth Tourist Information Centre.

**Montgomeryshire Bird Report 2020**. Editor: Simon Boyes
Available online at **http://montgomerybirdblog.blogspot.com/p/county-reports.html**

**Cambrian Bird Report 2020** (Anglesey, Caernarfonshire and Meirionnydd). Editor: John Small.
Available from Geoff Gibbs, Fron Wen, Valley Road, Llanfairfechan LL33 0ET. Price £8 including p&p, cheque payable to Cambrian Ornithological Society.

**Northeast Wales Bird Report 2019-20** (Denbighshire and Flintshire). Editor: Ian Spence
Available online at **www.brnw.cymru** in 2022.

Other Bird Reports

**Bardsey's Wildlife 2020**.
Available from **http://bbfo.blogspot.com/p/bardseys-wildlife-reports.html**

**Skokholm Bird Observatory Report 2020**
Available online at **https://www.welshwildlife.org/about-us/skokholm-reports/**

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